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The Veterinary Profession and its Organisation for the Control of Animal Diseases*

Report of a Committee of Investigation, of the National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland

Introduction

On October 1st, 1935, the Council of the National Veterinary Medical Association appointed a committee which was instructed to discuss the question of free and semi-free services of a professional nature and to report to the Council thereon.

The personnel of the committee, which was representative of all branches of the profession, comprised:—

Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, M.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. (Chairman).
Captain Donald Campbell, M.R.C.V.S.
Major Brennan DeVine, M.C., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (VICT.).
Mr. J. B. Dier, M.R.C.V.S.
Captain O. V. Gunning, D.V.H., M.R.C.V.S.
Professor W. M. Mitchell, M.C., T.D., M.B., CH.B.B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.
Mr. J. O. Powley, M.R.C.V.S.
Mr. H. W. Steele-Bodger, M.R.C.V.S.
Major D. S. Rabagliati, O.B.E., F.R.C.V.S., B.SC., D.V.S.M.
Mr. T. Wilkinson, M.R.C.V.S.
Mr. T. Wilson, M.R.C.V.S.
Captain J. R. Barker, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H. (President, 1935-36) and Captain R. Simpson, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (President, 1936-37) were *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

The committee issued a questionnaire to all members of the profession resident in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, requesting to be furnished with details of free or semi-free veterinary services offered by Government Departments, Local Authorities, other bodies and by members of the profession.

Two thousand three hundred and sixty-six of such questionnaires were circulated, evoking 284 replies from the various branches of the profession, as follows:—

England:
204 Practitioners.
10 County and Municipal Veterinary Officers.
7 Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
6 Research Officers.
5 Veterinary Investigation Officers.

Scotland:
32 Practitioners.
1 Whole-time Officer of the Department of Agriculture.
1 Research Officer.

Wales:
17 Practitioners.
1 Veterinary Investigation Officer.

No replies were received from Northern Ireland.

The committee decided that these replies should be considered and that a report upon this and other information available to the committee should be presented to Council. It was agreed that the replies received, although only just over 10 per cent. of the questionnaires sent out, represented a fair response considering all the circumstances involved. The distribution of the replies among the various branches of the profession is roughly proportional to the numbers of individuals in those branches.

As a result of this enquiry it is patent that, under the control of those outside the profession, the development of veterinary affairs continues in an unorganised manner and that as a result of this haphazard development and the resulting chaos there have arisen within the profession many sources of irritation, some of which have assumed the proportion of distinct injustices. From the evidence received it appears that some of these arise from certain forms of professional "free service" which, in the main, seem to have been thrust upon the profession from those without its ranks. Such changes, however are not peculiar to our own profession, for equally in the medical profession "as the result of the public demand for various services controlled by local and statutory authorities, the original character, scope and finance of general practice has been modified."* It is not unnatural, therefore, that as many of these developments are taking place in an unco-ordinated manner they have resulted, at times, in the development of

*Report presented to and unanimously adopted by Council, N.V.M.A., at a meeting held at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, June 8th, 1937.

*Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard.

ill-feeling within the profession. It is felt that much of this ill-feeling could be assuaged by the employment of more tact and understanding by the individuals or authorities concerned, especially if genuine attempts are made to mitigate the unjust results that sometimes accrue from these disorganised developments. Some improvement in the relationships existing between the different branches of the profession would follow increased personal contacts, the employment of greater sympathy and understanding, and sincere efforts to place before responsible committees and others the full professional picture, including harmful results that may ensue when new developments in the veterinary world are being considered. Nevertheless, the committee feels certain that this leaves untouched the fundamental problem of the ordered development of the veterinary services of the country. The Association has already attempted to influence the progress of such development by publication of its scheme for a nationally co-ordinated service, but the committee considers that a renewed consideration of this scheme in the light of subsequent developments is advisable. This has been attempted in the later portion of this Report.

The committee believes, however, that the rehabilitation of the mutual understanding and sympathy which usually exists between all branches of the profession may be helped if it states without giving in detail the main causes of friction that seem to be exerting a disruptive effect upon professional goodwill, even if in certain instances it confines itself to mention of the causes of friction and refrains from passing comment. It recommends the profession to consider the Report as a whole and not to be side-tracked into controversies over individual examples of difficulty given.

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Part I

CAUSES OF FRICTION ARISING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM RECENT LEGISLATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

(*i*) The "Attested" Herds Scheme (England and Wales)

The only legislation administered directly by a Government Department which appears to have given rise to complaint is that relating to the "Attested" Herds Scheme (England and Wales).

At present the owner of a herd proposed for attestation is required to produce two certificates signed by a veterinary surgeon to the effect that the herd has been tested with tuberculin on two occasions and that no reactors were found as the result of either of these two tests. This testing may be carried out by any veterinary surgeon, but after attestation the herd is taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and the testing done by their own inspectors. Thus the practitioner helps to free the herd from tuberculosis and he must then lose all interest in its continued welfare. The Ministry has, however, received two deputations from the N.V.M.A. on this matter and it is understood that this scheme is under revision. It is felt that if or when the proposed amended scheme is put into operation, it will tend to remove many of the difficulties that presently arise in connection with tuberculin testing.*

It is agreed that generally the veterinary staff of the Ministry of Agriculture carries out its duties with a scrupulous regard to the interests of other members of the profession, but in a few instances the committee has received evidence that suggests that some of these officers have, on occasion, in endeavouring to further the "Attested" Herds Scheme laid themselves open to the charge of "touting."

(*ii*) Legislation Administered Through Local Authorities

Most criticism in the replies relates to the "Accredited" Herd Scheme and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

(*a*) *"Accredited" Herd Scheme*

From the information laid before the committee it is evident that there is a wide variation in the manner in which local authorities administer this scheme. It appears that inspections under the "Accredited" Herd Scheme are carried out in one of the following ways.

(*a*) Entirely free to the farmer by
  (*i*) The whole-time service,
  (*ii*) Approved part-time inspectors, or
  (*iii*) Practitioners chosen by the farmer but paid by the local authority.

(*b*) At low fees (which the farmer pays direct to local authorities) by
  (*i*) The whole-time service,
  (*ii*) Approved part-time inspectors, or
  (*iii*) Practitioners chosen by the farmer.

(*c*) By a combination of two or more of the above methods.

Where local authorities offer to allow their veterinary officers to perform these after-licence inspections at low fees, the committee feels that they are entering into direct competition with practitioners, particularly in those counties where producers are left free to employ their own private veterinary surgeon. Such a practice cannot be approved by the committee.

It is learned that in a number of counties employing whole-time veterinary officers, the practitioners are entirely excluded from carrying out post-licence clinical inspections in spite of the fact that many of them have for a number of years been doing similar work for the

*An amended "Attested" Herds Scheme (England and Wales) was announced on May 27th, and full details were published in the *Veterinary Record* of June 5th.

licensing authorities: in two counties which employ part-time inspectors, other practitioners in these counties are similarly debarred.

In one county, although the farmer has the option of employing either his own veterinary surgeon or the veterinary officer of the local authority, a leaflet is sent round and notices appear in a publication of the County Council, informing producers that if they employ their own veterinary surgeon for clinical inspections they must pay his fees, but that if they employ the veterinary officers of the county no fee will be charged.

The committee has also received documentary evidence showing that circulars have been issued by some local authorities offering to undertake the clinical inspection of "Accredited" herds and stating the terms on which this work would be done by the whole-time veterinary officers of the county. In some instances it was not made clear that the producer is free to employ his own private veterinary surgeon for clinical inspections if he so desires.

In the absence of evidence that circulars of this nature have in any case been issued indiscriminately, the committee feels that they cannot be regarded as flagrant advertisements but rather as notifications to producers whose herds have been licensed or are ready for licence, bringing to the producers' notice the conditions under which the local authority itself would carry out after-licence veterinary work, but there is little doubt that a more careful wording of these circulars would lead to less irritation within the profession.

Some evidence has been received which suggests that certain farmers delay calling in the veterinary practitioner until after a visit from the veterinary officer, in the hope that the latter will advise them about an ailing animal, while other farmers report cases, *e.g.*, acute enteritis, acetonaemia, etc., which are not reportable under the Tuberculosis Order. As a result of these practices it is alleged that veterinary practitioners have lost much work since the "Accredited" Herd Scheme began.

It is felt by the committee that complaints of this nature might be avoided if farmers were advised that in the case of an ailing cow they should call in a practitioner at once, excepting when they think it is a case of tuberculosis, in which event it should be reported to the local authority. It is obvious that by tactful handling these practices would soon be avoided. The committee is of opinion that the procedure usually followed by the majority of veterinary officers of advising farmers to call in their own veterinary surgeons in cases that lie outside the veterinary officer's province, is the correct one.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Orders

On June 1st, 1936, a new Order came into force and its administration was placed in the hands of the County and County Borough Councils. Under this Order the tuberculin testing for the purposes of the Milk (Special Designations) Order may be carried out by approved practitioners or whole-time officers of the local authorities, according to the arrangements made by the individual local authority. An important point, however, is that certain local authorities have restricted their approval "as veterinary surgeon" under the Order to their own whole-time staff or to a few of the practitioners. In other cases all practitioners in the county or area may be approved.

If, however, an owner desires to have his herds tested or examined by his own practitioner he can apply to his local authority for their approval. According to a recent ruling in a case where a farmer refused to have the services of his own veterinary surgeon replaced by those of the county veterinary staff, the Minister of Health stated that "while the committee (of the County Council concerned) could properly adopt a resolution nominating the whole-time veterinary officers of the county for the purpose of carrying out tuberculin tests under the Order, they are not empowered to deprive an applicant of his right to submit the name of another veterinary surgeon for approval, and that where an applicant prefers to adopt that course the application must be considered in a judicial manner."

It would appear, then, that although a Council may nominate veterinary surgeons to act under the Order it can only refuse to approve others that are put forward by herd owners, provided it has good cause for refusal.

The Minister of Health's ruling does not seem, however, to affect the position in Scotland, as the Scottish Order omits the words "or approve" which appears in the Order relating to England and Wales, and it is understood that in Scotland the nomination of veterinary surgeons to carry out the prescribed examinations and tuberculin tests rests entirely with the local authority.

In Scotland, almost invariably the testing is done by whole-time veterinary officers, but in a few counties approved practitioners are employed directly or called in to assist the veterinary officer if required.

The committee has received some evidence showing that the veterinary officers of certain local authorities at times test other than designated herds. For example, in Somerset a scheme has been introduced whereby any owner wishing to free his herd from tuberculosis and willing to remove all reactors can have his herd tuberculin tested and receive general advice from the veterinary staff of the county, the only cost to the farmer being the price of the tuberculin used. If, however, the farmer does not wish to remove his reactors he can still take advantage of this scheme but he is charged a fee of 1s. 6d. per animal for six months. Under this scheme in 1936, from April to the end of the

year, 124 owners took advantage of the scheme while of these 104 removed all reactors. On the other hand, in Dorset it has been decided that the free testing shall be limited to one test and that any subsequent test before a licence is granted shall be done at the farmer's expense by his own veterinary surgeon.

It was noted that very often the testing under the Milk (Special Designations) Order (Scotland) is done at uneconomic fees. In two counties (Stirlingshire and Lanarkshire), for instance, a herd of any size anywhere in the county is tested for a nominal fee of £1 or £1 1s. 0d. respectively. In another (Dumfriesshire) it is said that any size of herd is tested for £2 2s. 0d. per annum irrespective of whether one or two tests are necessary.

(*c*) *Public Notification of Individual Local Schemes*

In connection with the veterinary service offered by the Birmingham Corporation with the object of ensuring as healthy a milk supply for the City as possible, a printed leaflet giving full particulars of the Scheme is issued, but the committee understands that this leaflet is not broadcast by the Corporation, and that, in fact, less than 1 per cent. of those supplying milk to Birmingham have received it.

Specimen letters, printed instructions, memoranda and other documentary evidence issued by various local authorities were received by the committee, giving details of the authorities' veterinary services and the fees to be charged.

After careful consideration the committee agreed that no grave objection can be raised to local authorities issuing information about their schemes, either in writing or verbally, but that such information should not be broadcast and should only be supplied to those signifying their intention of entering the schemes. The question of whether the advertising of the veterinary services of local authorities contravenes the bye-laws of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons seems to the committee a doubtful point. At the same time, the committee is of opinion that while such schemes as the Birmingham scheme have undoubtedly served a very useful purpose in the past, the introduction of similar schemes in other localities to-day is unnecessary.

(*d*) *Acceptance of Professional Certificates*

A source of great irritation has arisen in some counties from the refusal of the local authorities to accept the certificates of veterinary practitioners in connection with the "Accredited" Herd Scheme, and the refusal of these and the majority of the county councils in Scotland to recognise the certificates of veterinary practitioners in relation to the tuberculin testing of herds licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, in spite of the fact that some of these practitioners have been doing similar work for the Ministry of Health for years. This raises the question—can a local authority refuse to accept the certificate of any fully qualified practitioner for (*i*) clinical examinations under the "Accredited" Herd Scheme or (*ii*) tuberculin tests of cattle under the Milk (Special Designations) Order? In other words, can a local authority discriminate between professional certificates given by two veterinary surgeons? In this connection the situation may have been clarified to some extent by the recent ruling in the case of Herefordshire referred to under (*b*) Milk (Special Designations) Order.

(*e*) *Interpretation of Orders*

A sense of grievance has arisen from the action of certain local authorities in interpreting the terms "Herd" and "Milch Cow" to include young stock thereby removing even these animals from the care of the practitioner.

(*f*) *Milk Sampling*

Arising out of complaints that milk samples direct from cows had been taken by police officers, sanitary officers and members of the clerical staff of Medical Officers of Health, where bulk samples had revealed the presence of tuberculosis, the committee concluded that the collection of milk samples from individual cows or groups of cows suspected of disease requires to be carried out with great care and is the duty of the veterinary surgeon who examines the herd.

(*g*) *From Particular Instructions Issued by Local Authorities*

Trouble arose in one county from the laying down by the County Council of instructions liable to provoke discord between part-time inspectors and the county veterinary officer. These instructions gave an unreasonable basis of valuation which was to be adopted in the valuation of animals under the Tuberculosis Order.

(*h*) *Meat Inspection Services*

Although no instance of friction within the profession has arisen in the matter of meat inspection, trouble has sometimes occurred with others appointed by certain local authorities to do this work. The position is admitted to be unsatisfactory in this country. Briefly it would appear that County Councils have no jurisdiction over meat inspection; the duties under the relevant Acts and Orders are imposed only on County Boroughs, non-County Boroughs, Urban and Rural District Councils, and in the majority of these, the medical officer and sanitary inspector are the only persons authorised in England and Wales to carry out the inspection of meat. Veterinary surgeons can, however, undertake this work if first appointed as sanitary inspectors to bring them within the provisions of the law, but their services are not being utilised in this direction to the extent they should be.

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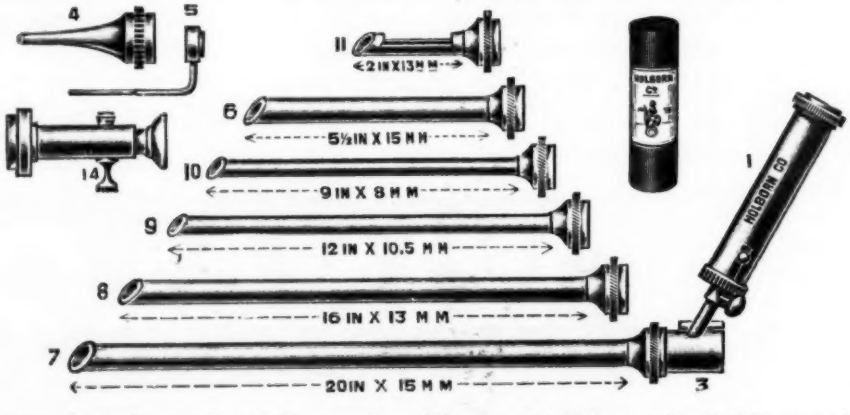

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On the other hand, in Scotland veterinary surgeons are empowered by law to act as meat inspectors, while sanitary officers are employed mainly as detention officers, this course being facilitated by the small number of private slaughterhouses in Scotland compared with that of England and Wales.

The committee considers that the position in England and Wales is unsatisfactory and should be brought into line with that which obtains in Scotland, and that no carcase should be condemned without consultation with a veterinary Surgeon.

(*iii*) Difficulties Associated with the Appointment of Whole-time Veterinary Officers of Local Authorities

The duties of whole-time veterinary officers of local authorities have been investigated by the committee, and in Part III of this Report is a statement showing the various ways in which veterinary public health work is carried out in the different counties in England and Wales and in Scotland.

Not only is a kaleidoscopic picture of veterinary organisation revealed by the examination of this service but there is also a lack of uniformity in the conditions under which these appointments are made. In some cases, the veterinary officer is directly responsible to the local authority and in sole charge of his department; in others, he is responsible to the medical officers of health, while one or two work under the agricultural organiser.

The committee desires to express the opinion that whole-time veterinary officers in the service of local authorities should be autonomous in the sense that they should be in control of their own departments, that is, they should neither serve under the medical officer of health nor under any other officer of the local authority but should be directly responsible to the appropriate committee of the local authority. It is, nevertheless, essential that they should work in the closest harmony with these other officers.

The committee feels that it would be useful if the position of a whole-time veterinary officer could be clarified as between his obligations to the local authority and those inherent in his membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

In spite of the diversity of organisation of the veterinary services attached to local authorities, it would appear that each system at present in vogue has a large number of critics within the profession. Thus of the following views each has its adherents:

(*a*) More evils attach to a part-time staff, with only a few practitioners included, than to a whole-time staff.

(*b*) If the whole-time staff and the practitioners in any particular area work amicably together, the profession in that area benefits as a whole.

(*c*) Much of the work for which whole-time men are appointed is new work, in the sense that it was not carried out before the whole-time appointments were made.

(*d*) Practitioners have undoubtedly sustained losses from the introduction of whole-time services through the loss of much veterinary public health work.

(*e*) In considering estimates of the losses sustained by practitioners the probable effect on the existing practitioners were the whole-time men in general practice must not be overlooked.

(*f*) Many, while not disclaiming the right of the practitioner to participate in new work, do not object to whole-time officers carrying out the new public health work but object strongly to their taking over such work as tuberculin testing, which had previously been done to a large extent by practitioners.

(*g*) Many dislike the practice of some veterinary officers of acting as expert witnesses in court cases unconnected with legislation appertaining to the health of the public and scheduled diseases.

(*iv*) Friction Due to Part-time Services

Many veterinarians object to the appointment of only a few, and not all, of the practitioners of the district as part-time inspectors for the routine examination of cattle and for duties under the Diseases of Animals Acts, since the adoption of such a procedure is alleged to give the veterinary surgeon who is appointed an unfair advantage over other veterinary surgeons in the district, in that it enables him to enter the practice of another veterinary surgeon, a fact which sometimes results in the loss of other work to the part-time inspector. Without expressing any views on this practice, it was nevertheless agreed that where an individual practitioner has shown himself to be inefficient or out of date the profession, in its own interests and especially in the interests of other practitioners, should not offer any objection to the withdrawal of his appointment.

(*v*) Friction Arising from Work of a Research Character

The question of field trials of results of research work carried out in laboratories is one of some difficulty when it is remembered that much of the practitioner's work is of a preventive nature. This fact, however, should make him the more ready to co-operate with research officers in their endeavours to evolve such methods. The difficulties arise mainly from two causes; first, a research officer will on occasion carry out work in a district without consulting and sometimes without even notifying the local practitioner but even when collaboration is sought with the local practitioner difficulties may arise if the latter is unwilling to make suitable appointments with the research officer

or let him proceed alone. The second difficulty is one of finance; some practitioners feel that their collaboration necessitates a fee whereas neither the research institute nor the farmer, who feels his stock is being experimented with, is able or willing to pay such a fee.

The committee feels that it would be impossible, and in fact, undesirable, to curb unduly the field experiments of research workers but that, in such work, the practitioner might well take an intelligent, although unremunerative, interest. When, however, this work is past the truly experimental stage and is being carried out on a large scale to test results that have every likelihood of yielding benefit to the farmer, the committee is of the opinion that the practitioners should be taken fully into collaboration and that the farmer may be expected reasonably to pay some sort of fee. Furthermore, it is considered that wherever possible the taking of blood samples should only be undertaken by veterinary surgeons and that research officers should not request stock-owners to do this for them.

In actual fact, however, very few complaints have been received in this enquiry concerning the work of research officers.

(*vi*) Friction Arising from Work of Veterinary Investigation Officers

All except one or two of the incidents received as evidence arising under this head took place before the revised conditions governing the duties of these officers, following the representations made by the N.V.M.A., were brought into force. Only one of these incidents might have caused serious trouble, but owing to the generous and frank handling of the situation by both practitioner and officer the matter was settled amicably and the individuals concerned realised that in future each might be of service to the other. The committee desires to stress the importance of co-operation between the practitioner and the veterinary investigation officer, and with this in view has included later in this Report a short account of their duties showing the scope of their activities and in Appendix II a list of their names and addresses. The committee understands that while the assistance of veterinary investigation officers is available to the practitioner without fee in certain cases of obscure disease or disease of an epizootic character it is worthy of note that when a practitioner consults a research institute, such as the Animal Diseases Research Association, a charge is often made for any advice or help given.

It is felt that the sending of tubes direct to farmers for the collection of blood samples, as was alleged to have been done by a veterinary investigation officer, constitutes a breach of the instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in connection with which it had been made clear that veterinary investigation officers had, in the performance of their duties, to pay due regard to the etiquette of the profession. This has been referred to under the previous section. It is thought also that veterinary investigation officers should not be utilised by county agricultural organisers as a means of getting free advice for farmers. It is the view of the committee that veterinary investigation officers should be free from such control. From this enquiry, however, the committee is of the opinion that there is little real trouble between practitioners and veterinary investigation officers since the new instructions were put into operation.

(*vii*) Poultry Work

Although we are unaware of any friction arising from poultry work, yet the profession views certain developments with some apprehension. It was brought to the notice of the committee that since the extension of the free service given by County Poultry Instructors, poultry keepers are calling less and less for the services of the practitioner, although certain diagnostic work is being carried out by veterinary investigation officers to an increasing extent.

The committee understands that there are still many members of the profession who regularly assist poultry breeders and that many more are able and anxious to assist the poultry industry in dealing with disease problems.

(*viii*) Friction Arising from the Giving of Treatment and Advice by Veterinary Officers Outsde their Normal Duties to the Sick Animals of Farmers.

The following instances of such practices have been reported:—

(*a*) By whole-time officers in the course of routine examination of herds, *e.g.*, in undertaking the removal of foetal membranes from cows and advising with regard to lame cows and other animals.

(*b*) By local veterinary inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture where they are called in in cases of suspected swine fever.

(*c*) By veterinary investigation officers, *e.g.*, the administration of serum treatment to pigs without consultation with the owner's veterinary surgeon.

(*d*) By part-time inspectors in the course of their official duties.

(*ix*) Irritation Arising from Printed Free Advice on the Diseases of Animals Given by:—

(*a*) Veterinary surgeons in agricultural papers. The committee feels that members who write for newspapers should refrain from discussing treatment in detail and omit references to quantities and dosage of drugs owing to the danger of such knowledge being misapplied.

(*b*) Agricultural colleges in various forms of literature, and

(*c*) The Bulletins issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. While aware that the Ministry has been issuing these bulletins for many years, the committee is of opinion that greater care should be exercised in describing treatment for farm animals, particularly as such treatment is often improperly carried out by laymen.

(*x*) Friction Arising from Free Treatment Given by Veterinary Colleges

Exception is taken by some members to one of the privileges of membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which apparently permits a member of that Society to apply direct to the Principal of the Royal Veterinary College for advice, while exception is also taken to other schemes for advice and treatment at the various veterinary colleges. The committee, while noting these complaints, feels that some such schemes are necessary if the teaching colleges are to fulfil their function properly.

(*xi*) Apprehension Arising from the Growth of Unqualified Practice

Finally, the committee feels bound to refer to the very great menace of unqualified practice in the treatment of animals at present allowed by law to continue in this country. Such activities menace the work of the veterinary surgeon both in the town and in the country, and this question, on top of that arising from the chaotic development of veterinary services already referred to, may well become the final blow which will eliminate the veterinary practitioner. The activities referred to are those of quack medicine vendors, travellers of cattle food manufacturers, representatives of large pharmaceutical firms, "quacks," and organisations employing unqualified persons.

The profession does not object to free aid or to advice given at reduced fees in deserving cases, as is well shown by its own record, but widespread unqualified practice must result in considerable harm being done to the animals of the country. It might usefully be stated at this stage that many free or semi-free services are given by veterinary surgeons to sick animals of the poor, dog shows, agricultural shows, race meetings, pets clubs, and young farmers' clubs, and it seems to the committee that there are few services which are not being rendered free or at reduced charges by practitioners in deserving cases.

(*xii*) Economic Effects on General Practice of Recent Changes in Legislation

One of the greatest sources of irritation in the present chaotic condition of veterinary affairs is the loss of income suffered by practitioners as the result of the haphazard development of local whole-time services. Many figures have been submitted to the committee, which, after consideration, feels that the following statements are not likely to be grossly inaccurate.

It is computed that the loss sustained by the practitioners who responded to the committee's questionnaire amounts in the aggregate to approximately £13,000 p.a. in England and Wales, and to over £1,000 per annum in Scotland.

It is also calculated from the figures given in the replies that the loss, were practitioners to be deprived of the various appointments they now hold, would total approximately £26,000 p.a. in England and Wales, and £2,500 p.a. in Scotland.

The total loss by *all* practitioners must be considerably in excess of these amounts. On the other hand, many of the schemes which are causing losses to practitioners are still in their infancy and it is impossible to estimate fully their final effect. The recent extension of free tuberculin testing by whole-time men in certain counties (for example, Surrey, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and West Sussex) has certainly resulted in losses running into hundreds of pounds to the individual practitioners in those areas. The suggestion sometimes made that other sources of income develop as the result of the introduction of whole-time staffs appears to have little concrete foundation, and it seems certain that additional sources of income do not materially affect the position.

If in addition to these losses, those due to the great increase in unqualified practice are considered, it is realised that the inducements to embark upon an extensive training, such as is necessary to make efficient veterinarians, are lessened considerably and that general practice may soon become unattractive to the majority of the profession.

The committee, in fact, has noted statements that there has been a diminution in the number of practitioners in some country districts since the development of the whole-time service, and is assured that there are districts where agriculturists are already feeling the dearth of practitioners, but that, in spite of these potential openings members are loth to take up general practice. While realising that this fact may in part be explained by the general shortage of veterinary surgeons the committee believes that a potent contributory factor is the prevalent feeling of uncertainty for the future. The committee also understands that this feeling similarly makes it difficult for a number of older practitioners to sell their practices and for other practitioners to secure assistants. An investigation of the distribution within the various branches of the profession of 606 recent graduates who qualified between 1926 and 1934, showed that 363 entered private practice and 301 took up whole-time appointments of one kind or another. In considering these figures it should be remembered that the total

number of veterinary surgeons engaged in private practice greatly exceeds the number holding whole-time appointments and that during this period a number of older graduates migrated from general practice to such appointments.

There is little doubt that this feeling of insecurity has been intensified by the statements in the Gowland Hopkins Report that practitioners are not to be employed except as a temporary measure in the eradication of certain diseases and the committee deems it desirable that this statement should be taken up with the appropriate authority with a view to its elucidation.

After full consideration of the state of affairs described above, the committee has decided that some positive recommendations should be submitted to Council and accordingly it has drawn up the following account of the present organisation of veterinary services, together with a modification of the National Scheme (*Vet. Rec.*, February 2nd, 1935. p. 137), which seems advisable in the light of recent developments in the veterinary, agricultural and public health worlds.

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Part II

THE PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COUNTRY'S VETERINARY SERVICES

The foregoing portion of this report has clearly demonstrated that the work of the veterinary profession is receiving greater attention from legislative bodies than heretofore and that as a result, owing to the fact that regulations and orders are made and enforced in a haphazard way, much disorganisation, with its concomitant friction, has been introduced into the profession. There is little doubt that general practitioners have sustained considerable loss through the transfer to whole-time officers of much work associated with animal preventive medicine. While it is realised that any estimate of the total loss inflicted upon the practitioners should take into consideration such points as the effect on existing practitioners were the present whole-time officers actually engaged in general practice, it is generally believed, and the committee thinks with some justice, that the losses are nevertheless of sufficient magnitude, especially in association with the uncertainty of future legislative development, to deter young graduates from embarking upon careers in general practice. It is realised that the trend towards whole-time appointments in local government is not confined to veterinary officials and that it is even more prevalent in human medicine. Neverfheless the parallel between human and veterinary medicine in practice is not so complete as it might at first appear. In human communities the concentration of general practitioners is a high one and so whole-time men can be introduced without in any sense depriving the community of any particular area of the advice of the practitioner. It may be that a few practitioners are displaced but the number remaining is still large and sufficient to ensure early medical aid to their patients. With veterinary medicine, however, the concentration of practitioners is already somewhat low and consequently any further diminution in their numbers is apt to leave comparatively large areas depleted in or barren of veterinary aid. Such a result naturally facilitates the way for inroads by unqualified persons, a process which is already proceeding apace in both town and country. No one will deny that a scarcity of veterinary surgeons and a plethora of untrained "quacks" is bound to result in severe harm to the animal population of the country and to their owners.

A second difference of some importance between the exponents of human and animal medicine is that owing to economic exigencies the work of the veterinarian is in proportion much more preventive and far less curative than that of his medical colleague: furthermore, the preventive nature of veterinary work continues to increase rapidly. The modern trend in legislation in health matters is to place preventive work in the hands of whole-time officers. Such a step as this means a far greater loss to the individual veterinary practitioner than to the medical man and hence the gradual extinction of the veterinary practitioner, if the present trend of events be continued uncontrolled, would seem to be but a matter of time.

Some years ago a critical situation in medical practice was relieved by introduction of legislation on health insurance whereby individual men and women of certain categories were able to insure through the Government against the need for medical treatment while retaining the right to choose the medical adviser employed. It is now generally agreed that this step has enabled an efficient service of medical practice to be maintained in many areas where it might otherwise have become depleted. It would seem that the time has arrived when the Government should decide, in the interests of agriculture and the community, that some legislation is necessary to maintain in being the present service of veterinary practitioners. But before considering the best method of achieving this end it would be well to review the present organisation of the veterinary profession in Great Britain.

Briefly, the profession may be divided into the following groups:—

(1) The general practitioners. (2) Whole-time men employed by State Departments, *e.g.*, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, (England and Wales), the Department of Agriculture for Scotland and the Ministry of Agriculture for N. Ireland. (3) Whole-time men attached to county councils and municipal borough councils.

(4) Those engaged in teaching and research. (5) Veterinary Investigation Officers, attached to Universities or Agricultural Institutions. (6) Veterinary surgeons serving in the Colonial Service, and (7) Those engaged in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

The Veterinary Practitioner

Of these various groups the largest by far remains that of the veterinary practitioners. In his work the practitioner must be able to give both preventive and curative advice on the diseases of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, dogs, cats and various other pets, while in certain districts there is a growing demand for his help with fur-bearing animals. For economic and transport reasons, specialisation, in the sense it is understood in the medical profession, is largely unknown in the veterinary profession although certain clinicians tend to specialise in horses or in the smaller domestic animals. In addition to his work in preventive and curative medicine the practitioner has to advise on many problems of animal husbandry, nutrition and breeding. In fact, the major portion of the practice of veterinarians in agricultural districts is concerned with the prevention and control of disease either by the giving of advice on nutrition and breeding or by the use of immunological methods for the detection of disease and for the building up of an immunity in the animal against particular diseases. Economically it is often impossible to treat a single diseased animal or bird but both time and money spent on preventive measures, when groups of animals are dealt with, benefit the farmer and the practitioner. It is clear, then, that the services supplied by the veterinary practitioner are of the utmost importance to the farmer.

There are three services, however, which, while performing important duties of their own, may nevertheless compete to some extent with the work of the practitioner; these are the State Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the local services of counties, municipalities and boroughs, and the Veterinary Investigation Officers. As reported in Part I of this report, little trouble now arises between the practitioners and the Ministry officials or between the practitioners and the Veterinary Investigation Officers, but the heterogeneous organisation of the veterinary services of local authorities can and does give rise to serious difficulties. To complete the picture of veterinary organisation in this country at the moment it will be advantageous to describe briefly the duties of the three services to which reference has been made.

The Existing Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries maintains a professional staff, under the direction of the Chief Veterinary Officer, and this is distributed between the head office, general field work, inspection of animals at ports, and the laboratory at Weybridge. In addition to whole-time men it is assisted by a number of local veterinary surgeons employed in a part-time capacity.

Generally speaking, the duties of the veterinary officers of the Department are concerned with operating measures for the control and eradication of contagious diseases amongst animals in England, Wales and Scotland, under powers granted by the Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894-1935, and resultant Orders.

Briefly these duties include:—

(*a*) The supervision of the execution of the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Acts, and Departmental Orders issued under these Acts, for the control or eradication of animal diseases.

(*b*) Laboratory work, including the confirmation of diagnosis of the diseases specified, and research into other important animal diseases.

(*c*) The supervision of the execution of Orders controlling the importation of animal carcases, fodder, litter, etc., and Orders issued generally against the introduction and spread of animal diseases.

(*d*) The supervision of the execution of Orders dealing with the exportation of livestock, including the examination and certification of exported animals.

(*e*) The supervision of the execution of Orders dealing with the protection of livestock and poultry by road, rail and sea.

(*f*) Tuberculin testing under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme (England and Wales), and

(*g*) Since the Diseases of Animals (importation of Therapeutic Substances) Order, 1936, came into force, they may be called upon to undertake certain duties in connection with the prevention of distribution of any contagious abortion vaccine which may have been landed in this country without a licence for its importation.

In greater detail the organisation of these services is as follows:—

(1) *Diseases of Animals Acts,* 1894 *to* 1935.—The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries as the central authority under these Acts throughout Great Britain, is responsible for devising measures against contagious diseases of animals and poultry and is empowered to make Orders for these and related purposes. To assist the Minister in the discharge of his functions, the Diseases of Animals Division has been constituted under the direction of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry, consisting of 102 veterinary officers and an administrative and clerical staff of 50.

(2) For the purpose of the local administration of the Acts and Orders of the Minister, the Act of 1894 provides for their execution and enforcement (*a*) by the local authorities, comprising the County Councils and the Councils of County Boroughs and of certain other boroughs and

burghs, numbering 257 local authorities in England and Wales and 52 local authorities in Scotland (Sections 2 and 3), and (*b*) by the police (Section 43). Section 35 of the same Act further requires each local authority to appoint at least one veterinary inspector and so many other veterinary inspectors as the Ministry directs, and as many other inspectors and officers as the local authority think necessary. The local authorities have appointed for all veterinary duties, including those under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders, some 133 whole-time veterinary inspectors, and some 700 part-time veterinary inspectors. The duties under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 are those which impose the largest and most general obligations upon local authorities under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

The whole-time staff is regarded as a minimum trained staff sufficient for normal requirements including one or two isolated centres of foot-and-mouth disease. It has to be temporarily augmented to deal with unusual epizootics of foot-and-mouth disease, and it is supplemented for diagnostic enquiries into swine fever cases

Diseases of Animals Division—Veterinary Inspectorate Staff—Duties

The Diseases of Animals Inspectorate Staff now employed consists of a total of 101 inspectors. The duties allocated to these are:—

Where employed	*Nature of Duties.*	*Number engaged.*
Headquarters.	Direction and Control of Outdoor Staffs. Studying general technical questions affecting policy. Preparation of leaflets and keeping of epizootiological records.	9 Inspectors. (3 Superintending, 3 Divisional and 3 Inspectors.)
At Ports.	Examination of imported animals and of horses before shipment to European ports. Inspection of ships.	12 Inspectors wholly employed (1 Superintending Inspector and 5 Divisional Inspectors and 6 others). 13 Inspectors part-time port work and part-time field work. 1 Divisional Inspector.
In the Field.	1. *Swine Fever* diagnostic enquiries in about 50 per cent. of reported cases (*i.e.*, about 10,000 visits per annum) and tracing enquiries. 2. *Sheep Scab and Anthrax.* Enquiries into origins. General supervision of local authority's administration of the Orders relating to these diseases, including sheep dipping, and to bovine tuberculosis. 3. *General supervision of manner of enforcement by local authorities of general preventive disease Orders, viz.:*— (*a*) Cleansing and disinfection of livestock markets and saleyards and of railway and road vehicles used for animals; (*b*) Boiling of animal foodstuffs; (*c*) Disposal of hay and straw packing material used for imported and home merchandise and of meat wrappers. (*d*) Detention of Irish and other imported animals (including dogs); (*e*) Records of movements of animals; (*f*) Control of dogs. 4. *Foot-and-mouth Disease.* Diagnostic and tracing enquiries—administration of Orders in Infected Areas. 5. Attending meetings of Diseases of Animals Committees of local authorities and advising them on local administration.	73 Inspectors divided amongst 7 Divisions of Superintending Inspectors in which 66 Inspectors are working. (This total includes the 14 employed part-time at ports.)
London Quarantine Station.		1 Divisional Inspector.
Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge.	Diagnostic examination of specimens in connection with swine fever, anthrax, sheep scab, glanders, rabies, etc. Preparation of anti-abortion vaccine.	3 Inspectors (1 seconded in connection with preparation of Spahlinger vaccine).
Cattle Testing Station, Pirbright.	On loan to Foot-and-mouth Research Committee.	1 Inspector.
	Agricultural Research Council (seconded).	1 Inspector.

by the employment of some 291 local veterinary inspectors, paid by fees for each case. The whole-time staff is employed to the maximum of its capacity on swine fever diagnosis, having regard to other necessary and urgent duties, since it is more economical to employ whole-time than local inspectors on swine fever whenever possible.

Professional and technical administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts. This includes the following matters:—

(*i*) Determining methods of eradication from Great Britain of contagious animal diseases scheduled for administrative action under the Acts; framing and administering schemes under Section 9 of the Milk Act, 1934, in England and Wales; keeping of epizootiological records from which results can be assessed and upon which future administration and research can be based; preparation of leaflets on various diseases; advising as to replies to be sent to correspondents concerning miscellaneous diseases of stock.

(*ii*) Professional inquiries into reported outbreaks of certain scheduled diseases, *viz.*, foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and rabies, and the tracing and examination of animals ascertained to have been exposed to infection; special inquiries into particular outbreaks of anthrax and sheep scab, and supervision of sheep dipping operations in sheep scab infected areas.

(*iii*) Supervising and advising on the professional and other work of local authorities relating to the local enforcement of the Acts and Orders of the Minister dealing with scheduled diseases and with general preventive disease measures, including the Orders relating to the transit of animals, the importation of animals from Ireland and abroad, including cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, dogs and cats, and other canine or feline animals, the paving, cleansing and disinfection of markets, saleyards and lairs and the cleansing and disinfection of railway trucks, loading pens and road vehicles used for animals; the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Packing Materials) and (Boiling of Animal Foodstuffs) Orders; the Importation of Meat (Wrapping Materials) Order; the Control of Dogs Orders; the Regulation of the Movement of Swine Order; the Movement of Animals (Records) Order; and the Animals (Notification of Disease) Order.

(*iv*) The examination of animals landed from Ireland and Canada at approved landing places and the licensing of these to places of destination for detention or slaughter; the examination of animals landed from certain foreign countries for slaughter at the ports and of horses before export to the Continent of Europe; the administration of the Orders providing for the protection of animals and poultry from unnecessary suffering during transit on land and sea.

(*v*) Keeping in touch with local authorities and their officials in all matters relating to local administration and attending meetings of the Diseases of Animals Committees. The inspectors must acquaint themselves with the views of representative agricultural bodies on matters dealt with under the Acts and Orders, and bring agriculturists and veterinary practitioners into touch with the Ministry's Veterinary Laboratory and other research institutes for animal diseases in order that serious outbreaks of non-scheduled diseases may be investigated and advice given.

(*vi*) The examination of pedigree stock intended for export before admission to, and during detention in, the London Quarantine Station.

(*vii*) Tuberculin testing under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme (England and Wales).

Northern Ireland

The staff of the Ministry of Agriculture was originally employed almost exclusively on portal inspection in connection with the export and import of stock, but recently the work has been considerably extended, with a corresponding increase in the personnel of the State Veterinary Service.

Additional work now undertaken includes the inspection and certification of all meat and meat products before export, the inspection of all pigs in bacon curing factories, meat inspection and the grading of pig carcases under Pig Marketing Schemes, and the certification of cattle by veterinary officers under the Cattle Industry (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1934. Veterinary officers of the Department also visit customs posts between Northern and Southern Ireland.

Twenty additional officers were appointed for duties under the Scheme for the control of the production of milk, which scheme includes the examination and inspection of all milch cows and of premises on which milk is produced, and the testing of Grade A (T.T.) herds.

At the time when the State Service was reorganised and extended, Northern Ireland veterinary surgeons were given preference for posts and 15 of the 20 new appointments were filled by local authority officers and practising veterinary surgeons already resident in Northern Ireland.

Each veterinary officer has his own area and is responsible for that area.

There is now a staff of over 60 veterinary officers, and this deals with practically the whole of the contagious diseases, milk and dairy inspection, inspection of meat for export and other duties.

The Veterinary Service of the Veterinary Investigation Officers

The duties of veterinary investigation officers chiefly consist of the investigation, collection of data and material, etc., of diseases of obscure or uncertain origin which have assumed import-

ance in their areas; they are required to carry out such examination as is possible or desirable upon being called in, and to get into touch with the particular laboratory interested in the condition. If the disease is new or largely local in character the veterinary investigation officer may carry out further investigation himself. In addition they give a limited number of lectures to farmers, young farmers' clubs and poultry keepers, on the general control of epizootics and hygiene on the farm, assist in the organisation and demonstration of disease exhibits at shows, and carry out diagnostic work in collaboration with practitioners when required. Many of them carry out extensive laboratory diagnoses for poultry diseases. A further duty carried out by veterinary investigation officers is the testing of proprietary preparations which have found favour with certain members of the profession and for which investigations the research laboratories have no time.

Summary of Veterinary Administration by Local Authorities in England and Wales

The veterinary services of local authorities have been introduced in the main to carry out public health work, associated with the control of the safety and quality of meat and milk products. In addition a certain amount of assistance is given to the Ministry of Agriculture in the control or eradication of the diseases scheduled under the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.

(*a*) The local authorities, which assist in work connected with the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders are:—

County Councils,
County Borough Councils, and
Councils of non-County Boroughs (some of these only).

Each local authority must appoint one or more veterinary inspectors, who may be either Whole-time Officers or Part-time Officers (approved veterinary practitioners).

The arrangements for the carrying out of the work vary with the locality, as may be seen from the following:—

(1) All the work is done by whole-time officers.
(2) Most of the work is done by whole-time officers but they may be assisted by a panel of part-time officers. No definite salary or fee is paid to the latter who usually receive fees for work actually done.
(3) All the work is done solely by approved part-time practitioners. Generally these practitioners are paid for actual work done, but they may receive a retaining fee or work for a fixed sum annually.
(4) In some counties all the work under the Tuberculosis Order (which Order requiries that animals yielding tuberculous milk or showing clinical signs of tuberculosis should be notified to local authorities, and by them slaughtered, subject to the payment of compensation) is carried out by whole-time officers and the work connected with the other Acts and Orders, including market inspection (where this is done) is carried out by the part-time staff.
(5) In at least one county work arising under the Tuberculosis Order, in so far as it relates to cows found on routine inspection of dairy herds, is undertaken by the whole-time staff, but all other reported cattle are dealt with by the part-time staff.

(*b*) *Milk and Dairies Legislation*:

This includes the following Acts and Orders:
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act of 1915.
Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act of 1922.
Milk and Dairies Order of 1926.
The local authorities responsible for the veterinary work required by these measures are:—

County Councils,
Councils of County Boroughs, and
Councils of non-County Boroughs (a few only).

The work done under these enactments is chiefly concerned with investigations arising from bulk samples of milk found to contain tubercle bacilli or, more rarely, with the investigation of outbreaks of other disease thought to be milk-borne.

Under these measures the routine inspection of dairy cows is optional, but where it has been instituted one of the undermentioned methods of procedure is followed.

(1) The whole-time staffs do all the work.
(2) The whole-time staffs do most of the work, but are assisted by a panel of part-time approved practitioners.
(3) The whole work is done by approved practitioners.

These officers are usually paid for the work actually done, but in a few instances an agreed sum is paid per year, or special fees are given for work done, in addition to a small retaining fee.

Note.—The routine examination of dairy cattle under this legislation is now usually the work of the whole-time officer.

(*c*) The Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1936. Work to be done under this Order consists of:—

(1) Tuberculin testing.
(2) Pre-licence clinical examination of accredited and tuberculin tested herds.
(3) Quarterly examination of cows in accredited herds.
(4) Half-yearly examination of cows in tuberculin-tested herds.
(5) The passing of the buildings and methods of milk production before the granting of licences.

Tuberculin Testing. The testing is done in one of the following ways.

(1) The testing, including the preliminary one, is carried out free by the whole-time staff.
(2) The preliminary and subsequent tests are made by the whole-time staffs at small or nominal fees.
(3) The preliminary test only is carried out free by the whole-time staff.
(4) The preliminary test only is made by the whole-time staff at a prescribed fee.
(5) All testing is done by a part-time staff consisting of approved practitioners paid by the authority. (In a few instances.)

(6) All testing is done by approved practitioners at fees to be paid by the producers. These fees vary greatly. (Apparently the usual method.)

Note.—In all counties the additions to the herds are tested both on entry and after the segregation period of two months by the practitioner.

Clinical Examination of Cows in Accredited Herds.

One of a number of different procedures may be followed in carrying out this examination, *e.g.*

(1) Both the pre-licence examination and the subsequent quarterly examinations are made by the whole-time staff free to the producers.

(2) The pre-licence examination and subsequent quarterly examinations are made by the whole-time staff but at small or nominal fees.

(3) The pre-licence examination is conducted by practitioners at the producers' expense and the subsequent quarterly examinations are made by the whole-time staffs; for the subsequent examinations the producers pay either a small fee or none at all.

(4) Both the pre-licence examination and the subsequent quarterly examination are made by the part-time approved practitioners whose fees are either paid by the producer or the licensing authority.

(5) Two of the quarterly examinations are done free by the whole-time staffs and the remaining two examinations are carried out by approved practitioners at the producers' expense.

(6) The producer has the option of getting all examinations done by his own veterinary surgeon, at his own expense, or of getting two of the quarterly examinations done by the practitioner and the other two by the whole-time staff at reduced fees.

(7) The producer has the option of having his own veterinary surgeon or the whole-time staff to carry out all the examinations, but in the latter instance he is only required to pay for two out of the four quarterly examinations.

Clinical Examination of Cows in Tuberculin-Tested Herds.

The clinical examination of cows in tuberculin-tested herds is usually carried out by the whole-time staffs, but the procedure adopted and the fees charged, if any, vary from locality to locality.

The Passing of Buildings and Methods of Milk Production.

This work if done at all by the veterinary staff is nearly always deputed to whole-time officers. In one county borough the whole work is done by the part-time veterinary surgeon.

Routine Milk Sampling.

The collection of routine bulk samples of milk under this Order is sometimes done by the veterinary officer personally, or by a specially appointed lay official under the control of the Veterinary Department. In one county at least the samples are collected by local sanitary inspectors under the supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer of the county. In many other districts these samples are collected by the staff of the medical officer or by officers of other departments, the Veterinary Department taking no part.

Meat Inspection.

Duties in connection with the inspection of meat are not allotted specifically to County and Municipal Veterinary Officers under the Public Health Acts, though they and other veterinary surgeons may be appointed as sanitary inspectors for the purpose. In a few counties and boroughs special Acts of Parliament provide the requisite powers.

Summary of Veterinary Administration by Local Authorities in Scotland

The functions of this service are similar to those of the corresponding services in England and Wales.

(1) *Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.*

Local authorities concerned in the administration of these Acts and Orders are the County Councils and Councils of large Burghs of over 20,000 population.

The veterinary inspector may be either whole-time or part-time.

Methods of procedure vary and reference should be made to the Summary for England, inasmuch as the position in Scotland does not differ materially from that reported for England.

(2) The relevant *Milk and Dairies Legislation* comprises:—

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914,
Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922,
Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Orders including that of 1934.

The Local Authorities concerned are the County Councils, and the Councils of large Burghs (over 20,000 population).

There is one statutory examination of cattle in registered dairies annually, but the Department of Health recommend by circular three examinations for landward areas and four for burghs (large or small).

The Methods of Procedure vary in much the same way as for England and Wales.

(In one or two counties where part-time officers are appointed a grant is made by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland so that the practitioner may give his services at a reduced fee to crofters and small-holders in areas remote from his headquarters.)

In at least two counties the whole-time staff is augmented by the appointment of additional whole-time veterinary staff for the winter months to overtake routine examination of dairy herds.

In certain (few) cases the veterinary officer carries out the duties of supervision of buildings and premises generally as well as the normal duties of a veterinary inspector under the Milk and Dairies Acts.

Examination of individual samples of milk, sputum, etc., for tuberculosis, etc., is done by veterinary officers in certain local authorities and in very few cases biological tests are also done in the Veterinary Department.

Milk (Special Designations) Order (Scotland) 1936:

Three *clinical examinations* of cows in certified and tuberculin tested herds are required and so also in herds producing standard milk. Generally all such examinations are free to the herd-owner and are carried out by a nominated veterinary surgeon who may be either a whole-time or part-time official.

In certain cases (more than under the Milk and Dairies Act) the veterinary officer carries out the duties of supervision of buildings and premises generally.

Many veterinary officers carry out the *routine sampling* of milk in graded herds—samples for examination for cleanliness. It is recommended by circular that six such samples be obtained per annum.

Tuberculin Testing.

Pre-licence testing is usually done by practitioners. Testing of graded herds is by nominees of the local authority and may be either a whole-time or a part-time official. Fees for testing by whole-time officers are usually paid directly by the owner to the local authority.

Fees for testing by part-time officials are usually paid directly to the part-time official by the owner.

Fees vary considerably in different districts from a nominal fee for the test or expenses of the test to a fixed sum per animal tested. The part-time official usually makes his own charge.

Under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme for Scotland, veterinary officers (whole- or part-time) of the local authority are employed by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland to carry out tests prior to renewal of the Certificate of Attestation in the case of certified or tuberculin-tested herds and practitioners are employed to do the same work in non-graded herds. Testing is also done by the veterinary officer (whole- or part-time) of the local authority for graded herds and by practitioners in non-graded herds in terms of paragraph 7 of this Scheme (assisted testing). This testing is done when the herd owner can produce a certificate that less than 10 per cent. of his whole stock reacted to a test; for such testing the herd owner receives a refund up to 2s. 6d. per animal tested and £1 1s. per complete herd test.

Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

Under Section 43 of this Act, veterinary officers of certain local authorities are appointed and approved for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Section with regard to the seizure of unsound food.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations (Scotland) 1932.

The veterinary officers of certain local authorities are appointed as meat inspectors under these Regulations.

"Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations (Scotland) 1932 and 1933." Certain local authorities appoint their veterinary officer, the "responsible officer" under these regulations.

Meat Inspection Service

In other progressive countries, *e.g.*, United States of America, Canada, Germany, the Irish Free State, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, etc., etc., the *ante-mortem* and *post-mortem* examinations and other duties associated with meat inspection are in the hands of a State Veterinary Service. In Germany and certain other countries, the veterinary practitioners in rural areas are brought into this scheme and also perform meat inspection. Although in Scotland a veterinary surgeon is legally the meat inspector and acts as such, in England this is not so, as he is not specifically mentioned in any Act dealing with meat inspection; legally, the medical officer of health and the sanitary inspector are responsible. The committee affirms that the position in England should be brought into line with that which pertains in Scotland and that the veterinary surgeon should be specifically mentioned in all Acts relating to meat inspection and should have the same powers as the Medical Officer of Health. It is only in large cities and a few smaller districts that veterinarians are allowed to deal with meat inspection and even then their work is not always utilised to the best advantage. Thus much of the meat inspection is carried out by sanitary inspectors with some elementary training in food inspection, but as they are not competent to diagnose disease in livestock, this duty is rarely performed. Some of the larger bacon curing factories require the whole-time services of veterinary surgeons, and under present conditions, and as meat inspection is in the hands of local authorities, such veterinarians although nominally employed as sanitary inspectors by these authorities, receive their salaries indirectly from the bacon curers.

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It is obvious from a perusal of the foregoing outline of the various veterinary services that, as at present organised, there is an abundant opportunity for friction between the various branches of the profession; in fact, it is perhaps surprising that the resultant trouble is so limited.

But in reviewing the present situation we cannot ignore the probable future developments. For some years past the State appears to have been taking a much greater interest in veterinary affairs and although, until the end of 1936, no commission, committee or enquiry, had dealt directly with veterinary matters except the Gowland Hopkins Committee, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Secretary of State for Scotland then jointly appointed a committee with the following terms of reference:

> "To review the facilities available for veterinary education in Great Britain in relation to the probable future demand for qualified veterinary surgeons and to report thereon, and in particular, to make recommendations as to the provision which should be made from public funds in the five years 1937-42 in aid of the maintenance expenses of institutions providing veterinary education."

The committee is still sitting and it would be folly to endeavour to predict its final recommendations, but inasmuch as its enquiry has reference to "the probable future demand for qualified veterinary surgeons" it is likely that the report will make some reference to the problem we are at present considering.

The interest of the State in veterinary affairs has also been indicated by various other means. Several Acts of Parliament have been passed which have important bearings on veterinary organisation, *e.g.*, the Milk Acts, 1934; Improvement of Livestock (Licensing of Bulls) Acts, 1934; Cattle Industry (Emergency Provisions) Act,

1934; Diseases of Animals Act, 1935; and, in the case of Northern Ireland, the Milk Act, Agricultural Produce (Meat Regulations) Act, 1930, and the Cattle Industry (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1934. The effect of these legislative measures in Great Britain has already been indicated; reference will be made later to that affecting Northern Ireland. It may also be noted that *Lord Halifax,* on April 27th, in the House of Lords intimated that the Government would shortly be introducing a national long term policy dealing with the complex question of milk production, control and consumption; a policy which must affect our present veterinary organisation.

But other State bodies such as Reorganisation Commissions, Departmental Committees, the Economic Advisory Council and the Agricultural Research Council have all issued reports during the past few years dealing in part with veterinary affairs. It will not be out of place at this juncture to refer to some of their findings and recommendations in so far as they are germane to our present considerations.

In 1933 the *Grigg Commission* (Report of the Reorganisation Commission for Milk) expressed the following views:—

> "We consider it essential for the progress of the industry that the Milk and Dairies Order should be brought into universal operation and uniformly and efficiently administered. . . . The Milk and Dairies Order is enforced—where it is enforced at all—with a striking want of uniformity . . . we must again emphasise our view that the routine clinical examination of all dairy cattle is of as much importance from the standpoint of establishing the confidence of the public and of the medical profession as it is an indispensable part of any scheme of milk grading. . . . We are of opinion that the appointment of a whole-time chief veterinary inspector by the Council of each County and County Borough is the irreducible minimum. We hope that such an appointment will be considered by the great majority of the Councils as the first step only in the setting up of a whole-time service. For the efficient operation of the Milk and Dairies Order, the Tuberculosis Order, and the Milk (Special Designations) Order we are convinced that a whole-time service is essential, as and when the supply of veterinary officers is equal to it. . . . We have given anxious thought to the best means of bringing about these reforms and we would urge very strongly that the provision of an adequate veterinary service should be encouraged by substantial assistance from State funds. Even a single chief veterinary officer, giving the whole of his time, could do much to organise the service, to co-ordinate the work of part-time officers and gradually to bring about uniformity in the interpretation of the various orders and consistency of administration within his own area. When such officers were in being, the Minister would have the machinery for inducing a reasonable measure of uniformity and consistency as between areas, by means of the usual circular letters and others means of pressure."

The following excerpts from the *Gowland Hopkins Report* (Report of the Committee on Cattle Diseases of the Economic Advisory Council, 1934), are relevant to our discussion, although practically the whole of the report has some bearing upon the veterinary services of the country.

Two of the three "principal proposals promising an improvement of the milk supply are:—

> (1) An extension of routine veterinary inspection and (2) an active policy for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis. . . . The total eradication of bovine tuberculosis from all herds is the only complete solution of the problem of tuberculous milk. . . . The veterinary service should be expanded as the first part of a programme for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and the control of other diseases. . . . The veterinary service should be expanded and charged with the duties of carrying out periodical clinical examinations of dairy herds, and of putting into effect measures for the better control of all, and the elimination of some, of the diseases among dairy cattle. . . . An important issue which remains to be decided concerns the employment of veterinary surgeons engaged in private practice as part-time veterinary officers of local authorities. At present the majority of County Councils employ such part-time officers, even in some cases for the purpose of the routine clinical examination of dairy cattle. The experience of such counties, when compared with that of counties employing full-time officers, leaves no room for doubt that the employment of part-time officers is generally unsatisfactory. It is obvious that such part-time employment must not infrequently involve the officer in some conflict of loyalties, and whether from this or other causes the experience of counties employing whole-time officers strongly confirms the view that the employment of such officers is more satisfactory. In view of the evidence on this point we are strongly of the opinion that whole-time officers should be employed wherever it is practicable. We do not, however, assert that the employment of whole-time men is practicable in every instance. In certain sparsely populated districts where there is not sufficient private practice to support a properly qualified veterinary surgeon, the withdrawal of a steady source of income which employment as the part-time veterinary inspector of a local authority represents to the local practitioner, would probably have the result of forcing him to seek employment elsewhere. The ordinary veterinary facilities would consequently be lost to the district, with unfortunate results to the local agricultural population. . . . Some witnesses have urged that the appointment of a whole-time staff of veterinary surgeons would be detrimental to the interests of veterinary practitioners generally. We do not accept this view, as the advice given by veterinary surgeons in the public service, by directing the attention of the farmer to the incidence of disease in his animals, tends to make him call in his own veterinary surgeon more freely for

the purpose of treatment. . . . Our recommendations are made on the hypothesis that a policy of eradicating tuberculosis from the dairy herds of this country is pursued vigorously."

The Summary of Recommendations made by this committee includes the following:—

"(1) Routine veterinary inspection should be made obligatory for all local authorities. The veterinary service should be expanded under the immediate control of local authorities, but with precautions designed to secure to the departments of agriculture the power to co-ordinate the activities of local authorities. (2) The chief veterinary officer should only be appointed or dismissed by the local authority with the approval of the departments of agriculture. Eventually, all veterinary officers in public employment should be required to have taken a diploma in veterinary state medicine. (3) The veterinary officers of local authorities who are responsible for veterinary inspection should also be responsible for duties in connection with eradication. . . . (6) The testing of herds with tuberculin for the purposes of the milk designations order should be transferred to the expanded veterinary service. The granting of licences for the production of designated milk should also be made a function of county councils. (7) Only whole-time officers should be employed in the veterinary service, except where, by reason of the difficulty of securing adequate veterinary facilities, the agricultural interests of the district would be likely to suffer if a whole-time officer were appointed. The employment of part-time veterinary officers should also be permitted as a temporary measure during the period of expansion. (8) A full veterinary service with the above duties cannot be established immediately, as it would require about 300 veterinary surgeons. Steps should be taken to provide these. (9) The scheme for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis will require the active supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, and should provide for:—

(*i*) The institution of a list of tuberculosis-free herds (accepted herds), tested with tuberculin from time to time under official supervision, and declared to be free from bovine tuberculosis.

(*ii*) The provision of free advice and free tuberculin-testing for owners of herds who agree to make *bona fide* efforts to free their herds from tuberculosis, or who have established free herds.

(*iii*) Financial help, where necessary, by way of loans or the guarantee of loans, to approved owners for the purpose of undertaking expenditure required by the veterinary inspector as necessary to eradication. . . .

(*iv*) The taking of administrative measures designed to secure that tuberculosis-free cattle from accepted herds should be moved about the country and exposed for sale without running the risk of being brought in contact with other cattle. . . ."

The financial effect of the measures recommended.—(21). . . .

(*c*) The costs of the increased veterinary services and laboratory work and of free tuberculin testing would be met from national or local funds. Loans to farmers for the purpose of eradication would either be made from the same source, or under the guarantee of the state or local authority."

In a Reservation Sir Merrik Burrell states:—

". . . I had hoped that the production of this report would bring with it the realisation of the necessity of an attack on animal diseases on a national scale, conducted by a nationally organised staff, which I am convinced would be the most efficient and economical method. . . ."

And in a Memorandum attached to this Reservation Sir Merrik Burrell further states:—

"Those who, with me, advocate a state organised service argue that disease knows no geographical boundaries, and to be controlled, let alone eradicated, must be attacked on a national scale in a consistent and co-ordinated manner. That if not, the good work of one local authority may be nullified, wholly or partly, by the inefficiency, lack of organisation, or intervention of some local interest of a neighbour. That the present duties of the state veterinary officers are so restricted that their lives must lack the interest necessary to attract the best men, and the incentive to them to keep up to date in all necessary branches of their profession. . . . It is argued, also, that the efficient and economical control of diseases of all domestic animals and fowls must be looked upon as one problem of vast importance to the nation, that it cannot be split up into compartments and men trained and allocated especially to one compartment without human and financial waste. . . . It is not suggested by those advocating a state service that local authorities should lose all influence. Conditions vary so much up and down Great Britain that it would be necessary for any national scheme to be sufficiently elastic as to take advantage of the local knowledge and advice of the county council animal diseases committees."

The Cutforth Commission (*Milk: Report of the Reorganisation Commission for Great Britain*, 1936).

This Commission makes certain recommendations for the establishment of a nationally co-ordinated veterinary service, differing somewhat from that recommended by the bodies referred to previously. Thus, dealing with the future milk policy, the Commission states:—

"One step in the improvement of the quality of milk might thus be to prohibit, as soon as possible, the sale for liquid consumption of milk which falls below the accredited standard unless it is efficiently pasteurised. At some future stage we hope it may become possible to secure that all milk for liquid consumption comes from tuberculin-tested cows; but according to our information this would not be practicable until, through a national scheme for testing, selection and breeding, the proportion of tubercle-free cows in the national herd had been very greatly increased.

"It is essential to any comprehensive system of grades that control and inspection should be efficient and uniform throughout the country. To judge from the complaints that we have received, there have been marked differences in the standards required in different parts of England and Wales for

the premises and equipment of accredited milk producers. So long as the enforcement of the conditions attached to graded milk licences and kindred matters are left to a large number of local authorities, each of which makes its own arrangements and sets its own standard, anomalies are bound to arise. According to the evidence given to us there are serious differences in the interpretation of the regulations and in the attention given to their enforcement.

"The Grigg Commission . . . recommended that, as a minimum, all counties and county boroughs should appoint chief veterinary officers, who should be responsible for all supervision incidental to the various Regulations and Orders, and whose work should be co-ordinated through the machinery of central government. We agree that a system of this sort would be a great improvement upon the present arrangements, but as a result of our study of the Northern Ireland milk marketing plan, we have been much impressed with the advantages that have followed the establishment of a central veterinary service. We recommend, therefore, that the possibility of instituting a similar service in this country should be seriously considered."

And again, later, "We think it is important to secure uniformity in the administration of regulations governing grades and grading, and we urge that early consideration should be given to the possibility of instituting a central veterinary service with responsibility for the supervision of the enforcement of these regulations."

Report of the Reorganisation Commission for Pigs and Pig Products, 1932.

This Commission refers to the Report of the Pig Industry Council on Veterinary Research, which report stated:—

"The Pig Industry Council is satisfied that the progress and development of the pig industry in this country is retarded to an appreciable extent by reason of the very considerable losses that are either directly or indirectly associated with disease. Serious dislocation of markets is often caused by a glut of immature pigs sent in and slaughtered because of local outbreaks of various pig diseases. . . .

"Diseases which are causing the most serious losses at the present time are swine fever, swine erysipelas and certain diseases of the unweaned pig. It is our opinion that special attention should be given to these with the object of ascertaining improved methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment. . . .

"The Pig Industry Council recommended:—

(1) The establishment of a central station where continuous and intensive research regarding the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of pig diseases may be carried out.

(2) The introduction of some system whereby the veterinary profession and the pig industry may be made acquainted from time to time with the progress of research.

(3) The control of sera and vaccines with the object of maintaining their standard and potency for the treatment or prevention of the diseases for which they were devised."

The Commission adds that "subject to due regard being given to such other recommendations as may be made by the Agricultural Research Council, who have the matter of research into animal diseases under immediate consideration, we concur in these proposals of the Pig Industry Council."

Report of the Reorganisation Commission for Fat Stock for England and Wales (1934).

In this report further reference is made to the disease position of stock and the need for further efforts to improve its control. "The rate of replacement of cows in dairy herds of this country is excessive and disease is primarily responsible for this. An extension of the average life of dairy cows, through disease control, would help the dairy industry by reducing the cost of milk production, but it might be of still greater benefit to the beef industry . . . the market for home-produced hides may suffer permanent harm unless action is taken without delay to stamp out the warble-fly. The damage done by the fly is serious. The annual loss on damaged hides alone has been estimated at upwards of £500,000. . . . We think that a national campaign against warble-fly should receive the support of the Livestock Board.

Eggs and Poultry. Report of the Reorganisation Commission for England and Wales (1935).

The following excerpts are of interest:—

"We have been deeply impressed by the evidence we have heard as to the losses from disease suffered by the poultry industry, and especially as to the increase in mortality from disease during the last few years."

"We have been informed by technical witnesses that the number of veterinary surgeons in private practice who are fully competent to deal with poultry diseases is insufficient to meet the needs of the industry. If adequate steps are to be taken to deal with the prevention and cure of poultry diseases, additional work is bound to fall on the veterinary profession. If our recommendation that a technical committee be appointed to investigate the question of stock improvement is accepted, certain of the duties of veterinary officers in relation to the prevention of disease will depend upon the findings of that committee. We suggest that the committee might also consider the allied problem of the curative treatment of disease. If, however, any augmentation of services proves to be necessary in the meantime, it should take the form of an extension of the facilities now offered by the counties and the provincial centres rather than the establishment of a separate organisation under the immediate control of the Board.

"In any case, since more veterinary officers with special experience of poultry are certainly required, we commend a suggestion that has been made to us that, in order to secure sufficient men and women with suitable training, post-graduate courses in poultry diseases might be arranged for young veterinary surgeons, and that the Board might assist by offering scholarships."

"We are strongly of opinion that powers both to prevent the importation of diseased stock and to check the spread of disease within the country are urgently needed."

Eggs and Poultry. Report of Reorganisation Commission for Great Britain (1935).

Two references are made to problems affecting the veterinary profession. On page 54 it is stated:—

"We recommend that the Commission (for Poultry) should give financial support to research

into problems of disease, to the dissemination of results among producers and to the extension of the present inadequate veterinary services. It will of course be understood that assistance of this kind should be in addition to, and not in substitution for, the financial assistance already accorded from other sources."

And on page 69 ". . . Similar considerations apply to such matters as research, publicity and allied activities. Many of the problems that await investigation are common to the whole country; in each case it is probable that a co-ordinated programme would produce the best results for a given expenditure of time and money."

The Agricultural Research Council.

This body, which was set up in 1931, has already done much towards co-ordinating and stimulating veterinary research. It has referred to the difficulty of securing veterinary surgeons to undertake research permanently, and in its report for the period October, 1933, to September, 1935, it states that "the drain on the staffs of Research Institutes concerned with the study of animal diseases, and the difficulty of securing recruits for those staffs, a state of affairs no doubt due in large measure to the recent extension of veterinary services in the counties, has caused the Agricultural Research Council grave concern."

Livestock Industry Bill.

The Livestock Industry Bill is likely to affect veterinary organisation, if it is implemented properly and thoroughly. "The proposed central abattoirs and all large factory abattoirs in the country should without question be directly under the control of the State. They should, as in all other progressive countries, have an establishment of whole-time veterinary officers to attend to the multifarious duties inseparable from an abattoir undertaking. These veterinary officers should be part of a State organisation and directed by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or a Department of Animal Health." (*Veterinary Record*, April 17th, 1937.)

In this connection it is not irrelevant to quote from a letter received by the N.V.M.A. from the Government of Northern Ireland, dated January 22nd, 1937:—

". . . The Minister is sure that it will be unnecessary to assure the Council (of the N.V.M.A.) that he is fully conscious of the great services that are, and can be, rendered by the veterinary profession to the agricultural industry. The fact that this Ministry has brought the inspection of pigs, both before and after slaughter, under the control of permanent veterinary officers of this Ministry, has delegated to its veterinary branch the grading functions under the Pigs Marketing Scheme, has made its veterinary officers the certifying authority under the Cattle Subsidy Act and, finally, has brought every cow in the country under State veterinary inspection as an adjunct to the Ministry's Milk Marketing Scheme will, I am sure, be sufficient assurance to the Council of the importance which the Ministry attaches to the veterinary profession and the increasing scope of its services to the agricultural industry in Northern Ireland. It follows in due course that when this Ministry undertakes the task of reorganising slaughtering and marketing conditions in connection with livestock in Northern Ireland, the veterinary officers of the Ministry will, of necessity, have to carry out additional and important functions connected therewith."

Finally two extracts might be quoted from the medical Press.

In an editorial of the *British Medical Journal* of April 17th, 1937, appears the following statement:—

"Sooner or later we shall be forced to take the control of milk production out of the hands of the public health authorities and transfer it completely to our agricultural and veterinary colleagues, to whom it rightly belongs. If they are wise they will press for adequate subsidies to convert our disease-riddled cattle population into one that is more worthy of a country which prides itself on its care of the lower animals."

Similarly the following quotation is taken from an editorial in *The Lancet* of May 1st, 1937:—

"In the inspection of meat for human food the man who must by virtue of his training know most about the abattoir is the veterinary surgeon. He is the one best qualified to detect disease in the food animal before slaughter and to guarantee the soundness of the flesh when dressed for human consumption. And in the present fight against tuberculosis . . . the medical man works with the veterinarian and only through such collaboration can measures of prevention be considered or a successful conclusion to endeavour be anticipated. . . . If an intensified effort to eradicate the tuberculous cow is a great task we are reminded how varied and important are the other directions in which his services are required in the promotion and protection of public health. . . . The young man entering the veterinary profession to-day will find that he has joined a service which is increasingly needed and valued; the whole world counts on his help. . . . Students entering the veterinary profession now will command better material rewards than have been possible in the past as there are almost limitless possibilities of promoting the welfare of the human as well as the animal kingdom."

. . . . . .

Part III

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It will be evident from Parts I and II of this report that the present utilisation of the veterinary services of the country is far from satisfactory. There is a lack of co-ordination on a national basis apart from the control of scheduled diseases by the Ministry of Agriculture, there being no central authority with powers at present to effect such a co-ordination. Two Ministries are concerned with veterinary affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with a staff of its own, dealing with matters affecting the animal population but particularly the scheduled diseases, while the Ministry of Health is indirectly responsible for the veterinary services connected with human health. Into the general picture must be fitted the diversely organised veterinary staffs of the various county, municipal and other local authorities, the veterinary investigation officers and the practitioners. It is obvious that such a disorganised state of affairs is bound to result

in a loss of efficiency and to cause inter-professional friction. If the farmer is to retain his services at all the practitioner cannot be deprived of his share of work connected with the prevention of disease, for preventive medicine in veterinary practice must play the main part in the future, even more so than with human medicine, for animal disease can be controlled with a thoroughness not possible among human beings.

The veterinary profession has been anxious about its development for some time and has striven in many ways to effect improvement. This can be gleaned from the editorials quoted from the *Veterinary Record* and reproduced in Appendix I and from the fact that in 1935 the National Veterinary Medical Association produced and adopted a scheme for the better organisation of professional services on a national scale. For some years now many other bodies, as has been shown in Part II, have been concerned with veterinary affairs and where recommendations have been made, all bodies, whether more particularly interested in cattle diseases, pigs, poultry, milk, fat stock and meat, or veterinary educational and research activities have one and all recommended increased facilities for training, extension of veterinary services and co-ordination of these services on a national scale. The *Cutforth Commission on Milk Reorganisation* considered that "control and inspection should be efficient and uniform throughout the country," and they recommended that the possibility of instituting a central veterinary service in this country should be seriously considered.

Thus it would appear that all responsible bodies, including the profession itself, share the opinion that the veterinary services of the country should be co-ordinated on a national scale. The only somewhat dissentient body is the Cattle Diseases Committee of the Economic Advisory Council, who recommended that the whole-time services should be co-ordinated but that the general practitioner should not be included permanently in such a scheme because of "a conflict of loyalties" between owner and State. This conclusion, we feel, is untenable for the following important reasons: (1) If the recommendations of this committee for "the better control of all and the elimination of some of the diseases among dairy cattle" are really implemented and the practitioner is given no place in the scheme, it is almost certain that a large proportion of the already scattered practitioners would cease to exist. The modern practitioner in agricultural districts cannot go through a lengthy and expensive training and subsequently exist on the proceeds from veterinary general practice without a fair proportion of work in preventive medicine. (2) Furthermore, the allegation that with the practitioner a "conflict of loyalties" exists is strenuously denied. There would, however, be no doubt upon this point if the Association's scheme were adopted, for under present legislative tendencies towards disease eradication and with the work of the practitioner supervised, co-ordinated and occasionally checked by the whole-time officer no farmer would continue to employ a veterinary surgeon who, through being lenient in assessing biological tests or inefficient in their execution, caused grave harm to the eradication policy pursued by the owner. The suggested provision allowing the stock-owner the right to choose his veterinary surgeon would in practice act as one of the best possible checks on the efficiency of the veterinarian besides avoiding unnecessary accusations of favouritism towards particular veterinary surgeons by the State or local authorities.

But in addition to this almost universal demand for the organisation and extension of veterinary services on a national scale practically all the relevant commissions and committees have recommended that the State should give adequate financial support to allow these changes to be efficiently made, for it is frequently stressed that the improvement of the livestock of the country, although to the advantage of the owner is also an advantage to the State and one which can only be accomplished with State help. This request for financial aid is further supported by the nutritionist. Sir John Orr advocates a national food policy, into which both agriculture and public health interests can be fitted and reconciled and that such a plan should be facilitated by the granting of a direct subsidy from the State. In the first report of the Advisory Committee on Nutrition set up by the Government, a large increase in the consumption of safe milk is recommended, while other dietetic authorities also point out the need for the consumption of animal proteins, obtained from meat and milk products, as these proteins alone supply certain essential amino-acids. For these and other reasons many authoritative bodies have, therefore, recommended State assistance for the production of these foodstuffs in a safe and wholesome condition for human consumption.

It would appear to be generally agreed, then, that in the interests of both agriculture and the health of the State the work of the veterinary profession should be organised on a national scale and that this organisation should be State aided. In most other advanced countries one Ministry supervises the work associated with animals in health and disease and the preparation of their products, whether these are destined for human consumption or not. The day is past when any veterinarian, whether in general practice or a whole-time post, can effectively function as an isolated and independent unit. A national scheme must be devised which will maintain efficiency but pay due respect to the demands of economy of time, money and personnel. Any

national scheme must consider the services required in the interest of research, prevention, treatment and eradication of contagious and sporadic diseases of animals; the supervision and control of production of biological products used in veterinary medicine; the control of production of animal food products; the improvement in breeding, feeding and hygienic conditions of domesticated animals; the supervision of imports and exports of animals and animal food products, fairs and markets; the control of drugs and therapeutic substances used for animals and the organisation and control of veterinary hospital services and ambulances. Into such an organised service the committee believes the present veterinary services of the country could be satisfactorily merged along the lines of the scheme proposed by the National Veterinary Medical Association in 1935. But in addition it is felt that there should be certain specialist services organised nationally but, nevertheless, co-ordinated with the general scheme. These services would include organisations for the supervision, production and preparation of meat and meat products, for the examination of pigs and the production of bacon, for poultry, and for the establishment of an efficient laboratory service to carry out the many laboratory tests required by modern methods of food inspection and of disease prevention and control. The committee, therefore, recommends the following modified scheme for utilising the services of the veterinary profession to the best advantage.

(1) This scheme, the principle of which has the support of the profession as a whole and has been adopted by the Council of the National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland, has resulted from the deliberations of two committees, each representative of every branch of the profession, the first sitting in 1934 and the second in 1936-37.

(2) It is agreed that, at present, the services of the profession for the purposes of the control of the diseases of food animals, and the safeguarding of the quality of their products, are not efficiently organised and that the present varied organisation is giving rise to a loss of efficiency and some inter-professional friction.

(3) Note is taken of the recommendations of many authoritative bodies, including this Association itself, that there is a great need for the extension of veterinary services in many directions and that this extension should be organised on a national scale and should be State aided.

(4) For the efficient working of any scheme for the control of the diseases of animals and the safeguarding of the quality of their products there are two essentials; first, the scheme must be a co-ordinated one, and should, therefore, be organised nationally, and second, it must have the full support of the veterinary profession.

(5) At the present time certain local authorities are carrying out their obligations in the interests of public health and a safe and pure milk supply, but there are serious differences in the interpretation given to the regulations, the manner of their execution and the attention given to their enforcement by the various authorities: some are doing nothing. Similarly with the control of the safety and quality of meat and meat products, this is all too often left to chance. Where a system of control exists it is rarely under the supervision of veterinary surgeons, for, except in Scotland, Northern Ireland and a few large towns with special powers, veterinary surgeons have first to be appointed as sanitary officers before they can act as meat inspectors. At present great variety exists in the organisation of the services responsible for these duties; sometimes sanitary inspectors, sometimes medical officers, and sometimes veterinary surgeons are the executive officers.

(6) The committee considers, therefore, that in order to secure uniformity of administration and effective action there should be a separate Department of Animal Health with a principal veterinary officer, an assistant principal veterinary officer, area veterinary officers, a county veterinary officer for each county or group of counties, municipal veterinary officers for municipalities, certain specialised veterinary officers, together with a panel of veterinary practitioners.

(7) In each area there should be established *at least* one laboratory under veterinary control for carrying out the laboratory work of diagnosis and testing which will be essential both to the control of cattle, pig and poultry disease and to the examination of the purity and quality of the milk supply. Where such laboratories are already in existence their work might be extended to include those duties connected with this scheme.

(8) There should be created certain specialised services, such as are necessary for the control of poultry diseases and for the efficient control of State abattoirs and the meat industries, including that for the production of bacon. If the national service should be brought under the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries then the present Ministry's service for the control of scheduled diseases might become a specialised service. Each of these specialised services should have its own chief officer who would have direct access to the principal veterinary officer or his deputy.

(9) If it is thought to be impracticable at the moment to have a separate Department of Animal Health, then the Department might be attached to the Ministry of Agriculture but in no case should it be submerged into a subsidiary department; its principal veterinary Officer should hold a position similar to that of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, and should be directly responsible to the Minister of State.

(10) Under the principal veterinary officer and his deputy there should be, say, four or five area officers. These officers, who should be men of considerable administrative and public health experience, would co-ordinate the activities of the county officers and of the diagnosis and testing laboratories and would act as liaison officers between these two branches of the service and the principal veterinary officer.

(11) In each county or group of counties, grouped according to their size and possibly in part to their cattle population, there should be a county veterinary officer.

In certain of the counties it may be necessary to have more than one whole-time veterinary officer. In particular, municipalities would require their own chief officer and he generally would require whole-time assistants to aid him in his specialist duties.

(12) If the recommendations for State aid are accepted then the appointment of the officers of the Department of Animal Health should be in the hands of the Department. The work would then be more uniformly carried out.

In the appointment of county and municipal officers, however, the Department should freely consult the local councils and their appropriate committees. This consultation should not cease after the appointments have been made.

(13) The State Department should prepare panels of veterinary practitioners in every district for the purpose of carrying out routine field work and their work should be co-ordinated by the county veterinary officer. All veterinary practitioners should be eligible for these panels but the choice should lie with the stock-owner, who will consult the Department before making his choice definite or effecting a change. In this way inefficiency, should it arise, would be brought to the notice of the owner, who would in the interests of his stock, forthwith effect a change. The profession as a whole should make it known that it will not defend the position of any of its members who may be shown to be incompetent to carry out efficiently the duties required by this service. These panels should constitute an essential feature of the service and the committee considers they should be permanent, and not temporary as suggested by the Hopkins Report.

(14) The committee cannot support the recommendation that " the veterinary practitioner be not included in the scheme except as a temporary measure "; such a recommendation, if put into practice, must have detrimental results not contemplated by the Hopkins Committee. The main justification for the existence of the veterinary profession at all, as far as cattle are concerned, is to " strive to control all and to eradicate some " of the diseases of cattle. The value of the trained clinician in any scheme devised to gain this end, is obvious. The practitioner should also, if he has the requisite knowledge, be eligible for work under the specialised services.

(15) There is little room for doubt that if the practitioner is not included in the national scheme his cattle practice would soon diminish to such an extent that he would ultimately withdraw from the stock-raising and dairying districts, a result that must inflict grievous injury upon the various sections of the agricultural community. Especially would this be so if the greater inroads foreshadowed by the Hopkins Committee were implemented, for the Report looks forward to the transfer to this new veterinary service of " any functions that may be imposed upon them in connection with other diseases of livestock and poultry."

(16) For these and other reasons, such as the benefit to be obtained from the practitioner's knowledge of local conditions, from the avoidance of overlapping of veterinary effort and from a profession organised as a whole to combat disease, the committee insists that the veterinary practitioner must be incorporated permanently into the scheme.

(17) The advantages of this scheme are that by the employment of co-ordinating officers (principal, area and county veterinary officers) the work would be carried out uniformly throughout the country, whilst at the same time the scheme would retain keen local interest. It would involve no material disturbance of existing arrangements, but rather would it co-ordinate the activities of a number of independent bodies and lead to the smooth working of the greater part of the country's veterinary services and to the amicable and sympathetic co-operation of the latter with the medical, sanitary and agricultural services. Furthermore, with the widespread use of the experienced general clinician the work could be undertaken more intensively, a point that would greatly increase the chances of early success. In

addition, it could be started at once, whereas a considerable time must elapse before any scheme not utilising the services of the general practitioner could be inaugurated.

(18) From a financial point of view the scheme would be economical, as it would avoid overlapping of duties, give a more extended personal service to the stock-owner and secure the co-operation and good will of the whole of the veterinary profession.

(19) Moreover, there should be no difficulties with regard to the uniformity of biological tests such as the tuberculin testing of herds, as the county veterinary officers and practitioners would co-operate and uniform methods and standards would be enforced throughout the country under the supervision of the Department of Animal Health.

(20) This scheme would greatly assist the Milk Marketing Board, the Pig Board, the Eggs and Poultry Board and others in combating the economic losses arising from disease by providing an immediate and effective veterinary service.

(21) The committee would welcome a Consolidating Act to co-ordinate the various veterinary services, and recommends that such a measure should be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

The recommended scheme may be summarised as follows:—

(*a*) There should be established a Department of Animal Health, preferably as a separate Department or failing this as a Department of an existing Ministry.

(*b*) The executive of this Department should consist of a principal veterinary officer, an assistant principal veterinary officer, area veterinary officers, county veterinary officers, municipal veterinary officers, laboratory officers, and certain specialist officers.

(*c*) Panels of veterinary practitioners should be created.

(*d*) The principal veterinary officer should be directly responsible to the Minister of State.

(*e*) The area veterinary officers should be responsible to the principal and assistant principal veterinary officers and should co-ordinate the activities of the county and municipal veterinary officers and area laboratories.

(*f*) The specialist services should each have individual chief veterinary officers, who would be responsible to the principal veterinary officer and the assistant principal veterinary officer of the Department.

(*g*) Laboratories will be required in each area, and should be under the supervision of veterinarians trained fully in laboratory procedures.

(*h*) The county veterinary officers should superintend, co-ordinate and at times check the routine work, which should be carried out by panels of veterinary practitioners. These panels of veterinary practitioners should form a permanent feature of the service, but every stock-owner should have the right to choose, or change, his veterinary surgeon engaged in this work, provided he first consults the State Department.

(*i*) In some localities it may be necessary to have in addition to the county or municipal veterinary officer other whole-time officers for special duties, especially in municipalities.

(*j*) The principal veterinary officer, assistant principal veterinary officer and area veterinary officers, should be appointed by the Minister.

(*k*) The county, municipal, laboratory and specialist officers, should be appointed by the State Department. The veterinary practitioners should be chosen by the stock-owner after consultation with the State Department.

STOCKS FOR CATTLE

A veterinary contributor to the *Farmer and Stock Breeder* gives the following particulars of a method for the construction of stocks in which the feet of cattle and horses may safely be examined.

Four perpendicular posts are set up in the form of a rectangle 2½ ft. wide by 6 ft. long. The sides are connected together by bolting on a single plank 2½ in. thick and 12 in. wide, while the ends are closed with strong movable timbers. It is advisable to have the four uprights of 6 by 6 oak, sunk 3 ft. into the ground and 7 ft. out of the ground, if the stocks are to be used for horses as well as cattle. The tops should be connected together with stout iron rods. The rear end is best closed by a piece of 2 in. iron pipe in place of timber. Iron brackets should be bolted to the rear posts to take another piece of iron pipe to which to fix the foot with lashing or hobble. It is convenient to arrange for the adjustment in height of the rear bar, to meet all sizes of animals. This is effected by bolting on three or four staples through which to slip the pipe, on the *front* of the rear upright. The rear bracket should project about 12 in. from the rear post and hold the foot bar at about knee height from the ground, for the operator's comfort when working on the foot.

To prevent the subject throwing itself down or lying down when placed in the stocks, a broad belt may be fixed at one of its ends to the off-side plank. A ring is placed on the other end of the belt to take a rope which runs up over the edge of the near-side plank, and is secured on a cleat. This arrangement is better than straps and buckles, as the rope is easily cast off from the cleat if the subject has to be released in a hurry, whereas buckles may jam when under strain.

The Veterinary Record

June 12th, 1937.

The Veterinary Profession and its Organisation for the Control of Diseases of Animals

In 1935 the Council of the National Veterinary Medical Association appointed a committee, representative of all branches of the profession, to consider the result upon professional organisation of the institution by various authorities of veterinary services of a free and semi-free character. The committee has interpreted its terms of reference liberally and as a result has drawn up a relatively extensive report, but nevertheless a unanimous one, based upon its deliberations and enquiries extending over more than a year. At its meeting on June 8th the Council unanimously adopted this report, and we have pleasure in publishing the greater portion of it in this issue.

The report states that "arising out of this enquiry it is patent that under the control of those outside the profession the development of veterinary affairs continues in an unorganised manner and that as a result of this haphazard development and the resulting chaos, there have arisen within the profession many sources of irritation, some of which have assumed the proportion of distinct injustices." . . . "The committee believes, however, that the rehabilitation of the mutual understanding and sympathy which usually exists between all branches of the profession may be helped if it states, without giving in detail, the main causes of friction that seem to be exerting a disruptive effect upon professional goodwill, even if in certain instances it confines itself to mention of the causes of friction and refrains from passing comment." Part I of the report cites, without bitterness or rancour, these causes of professional difficulties, and we may here congratulate the committee upon the impartiality and restraint of this section of the report. Certain suggestions are made towards improving relationships within the profession, "nevertheless the committee feels certain that this leaves untouched the fundamental problem of the ordered development of the veterinary services of the country."

Accordingly the committee considers in Parts II and III of the report the present and the future organisation of the services of the veterinary profession devoted to the eradication of the diseases of animals and the control of the quality of their products. In Part II the importance of the prevention side of veterinary medicine is clearly delineated and it is emphasised that this branch of the profession's work must be of even greater importance to the veterinarian than to the medical man. The various branches of the profession, and their functions, as at present organised are described, and it is concluded that with such "abundant opportunity for friction" within the profession "it is perhaps surprising that the resultant trouble is so limited."

In considering the future organisation of the profession extensive quotations have been taken from the reports of the many recent Government Commissions and Departmental Committees that have found it necessary to refer to veterinary affairs. An attempt has then been made to synthesise these views, together with others expressed by the N.V.M.A., workers in nutrition and the medical Press, into a harmonious whole and it is concluded that "it would appear to be generally agreed that in the interests of both agriculture and the health of the State the work of the veterinary profession should be organised on a national scale and that this organisation should be State-aided." A scheme for this national co-ordination, based in large measure upon the previous scheme of the N.V.M.A., is then detailed. The chief amendment is that, in addition to the general scheme envisaged for the control of the diseases of cattle, including its essential laboratory service, provision is made for several specialised branches of the profession such as the present service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and other services including organisations for the supervision, production and preparation of meat and meat products, for the examination of pigs and the production of bacon, and for the control of the diseases of poultry. A further change is the suggestion that all practitioners shall be eligible for these panels, the choice being made by the stock owner, "who will consult the Department before making his choice definite or effecting a change. In this way inefficiency, should it arise, would be brought to the notice of the owner, who would in the interests of his stock forthwith effect a change. The profession as a whole should make it known that it will not defend

the position of any of its members who may be shown to be incompetent to carry out efficiently duties required by this service." We strongly support this endeavour to ensure that no reproach will be levelled at the work of the profession, as we also support the request that a Consolidating Act to co-ordinate the various veterinary services should be introduced at the earliest possible moment. Fortunately it would seem as if such legislation is imminent.

Never has such a comprehensive report on the organisation of the veterinary profession been previously prepared and we feel certain that its production at such a time as the present, when veterinary activities are undergoing such development, is bound to lead to beneficial results. The report is likely to be of use and interest to many outside the profession as well as to the majority of veterinary surgeons themselves. Particularly at this time the material supplied in it and the amended "National" scheme should prove of service to the Government and its advisers in elaborating proposals for the centralisation and unification of the veterinary services of the country. In the face of this and previous reports, it certainly cannot be maintained that the profession is unmindful of its duties to the nation or of the way in which these duties are carried out. In conclusion, we may perhaps extend our congratulations to the committee upon the first result of its labours.

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CLINICAL COMMUNICATION

Variola in the Pig

F. BLAKEMORE and R. E. GLOVER
INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL PATHOLOGY, CAMBRIDGE

Although outbreaks of swine pox seem to be comparatively common in Europe, the condition is not often mentioned in this country and very little is known regarding its incidence. The nature of the disease appears to be most varied. In some instances it assumes a distinctly severe form in which spread from infected to in-contact animals of all ages takes place with readiness. In these cases, a characteristic variolous eruption is a feature of the disease, while the mortality is often high. In this country, however, the majority of outbreaks do not appear to be of this type since the lesions are not definitely "pox like," while the infection is often confined to the very young pig. These differences in the manifestations of the disease may be due to the fact that the pig is subject to outbreaks of a true porcine variola which is specific for this species, and to a condition which is probably vaccinia.

On the Continent the specific form of the disease has been described by Velu (1916), who differentiated it from vaccinia in swine. Other workers have recently investigated outbreaks of a somewhat different nature. Thus Lwoff (1935) describes a benign condition affecting young pigs in Russia which occurs most commonly on unsanitary farms, and states that he was unable to transmit the disease to other animals. He also found that experimentally infected pigs were not immune to swine pox. Cfontos and Nyiredy (1933) encountered a similar disease and noted that it was widespread in Hungary. They found that the condition could be transmitted by rubbing filtered and unfiltered infective material into the scarified skin of young pigs. The disease also occurs in America, since McNutt, Murray and Purwin (1929) describe a pox-like condition in swine which they consider to be identical with the European disease.

There are very few references to swine pox in the literature of this country. Gray (1913), however, is of the opinion that *variola suilla* is a very contagious malady, often associated with a high mortality (25 per cent.), to which young pigs are most suspectible, but he describes a more benign condition termed "water pox" which is occasionally seen in suckling pigs. Recently, Taylor (1934) has drawn attention to certain outbreaks of a pox-like condition in pigs in East Anglia and states that, in his experience, the disease is comparatively common in this area. It generally attacks young animals which have not been in contact with older stock and is not responsible for any extensive losses.

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The outbreak which will be described in this brief article was brought to our notice at the end of 1936. The owner stated that the disease first appeared in a litter of pigs during August and that subsequently the majority of the piglets which were born on the farm became affected. There was no indication that the disease had been introduced by purchased stock; moreover, its occurrence could not be traced to a spread of infection from existing animals on the farm. The hygienic conditions were good but as a unit system was employed and the sows farrowed in adjoining sties in the same house, there was every opportunity for the dissemination of the disease. An examination of the stock showed that the young pigs between the ages of three and six weeks were primarily affected, although a few mild cases had occurred in a batch of store pigs. The attendant veterinary surgeon had also noticed that some of the sows presented lesions which were confined to the teats. It was obvious, however, that these were isolated cases and that, in the main, young animals alone were susceptible to the infection.

The first symptoms exhibited by affected pigs were inappetence and some dullness. These were shortly followed by the appearance of reddened areas on the skin up to about half-an-inch in diameter which were seen on various parts of the body. These lesions were well defined and were rarely coalescent. The erythematous stage was of short duration and progressed to a scab formation without the production of definite vesicles. (Fig. 1.) Later the areas became well demarcated by a peripheral wall of raised fibrous tissue which in some instances induced a crater-like appearance [Fig. 2 (over-leaf)]. The scabs could usually be removed without difficulty from the underlying tissue, which showed no marked disturbance. Secondary infection was not commonly observed.

Fig. 1.

The disease ran a course of about three weeks and although in the majority of cases it caused only a slight loss of condition, some of the affected animals remained unthrifty and were killed on economic grounds. As the disease showed no tendency to disappear from the farm the affected stock was segregated and when the sows farrowed they were isolated until their litters were about six weeks old. These precautions were successful in combating the condition.

Several affected animals were autopsied but no definite changes were found in any of the internal organs. The skin lesions were subjected to an histological examination. The sections showed that they were of a superficial nature and did not extend beyond the Malpighian layer. There was a marked cellular infiltration between the epithelial cells which exhibited a certain degree of vacuolation. An examination for the presence of cell "inclusion bodies" was entirely negative.

The infectivity of the skin lesions was established by the dermal inoculation of an experimental animal (Pig 1) aged about ten weeks. The application of a suspension of superficial crusts obtained from a natural case resulted in the production of a very typical syndrome. At the third day an erythematous eruption was produced which lasted 48 hours. This was followed by a stage of flat pustules with umbilicated centres without the appearance of definite vesicles. Finally the lesions changed to superficial scabs. Throughout its course, the reaction showed a marked resemblance to the eruption produced experimentally in lambs by the virus of contagious pustular dermatitis. No lesions were observed on any other part of the body and very little systemic disturbance was induced. Ten days after inoculation the pig was killed and a suspension of mixed liver, lung and spleen was inoculated intravenously and subcutaneously into a second pig (No. 2). This animal remained unaffected until the fifth day, when there was a sharp rise in temperature, which remained high for two days and was accompanied by a slight loss in appetite and some degree of malaise. The temperature then returned to normal and the pig showed no further signs of disease; moreover, no eruption developed on any part of the skin. A normal pig (No. 3) which was placed in close contact with Pig 2 during the whole experiment remained unaffected, while its temperature was normal over a period of four weeks.

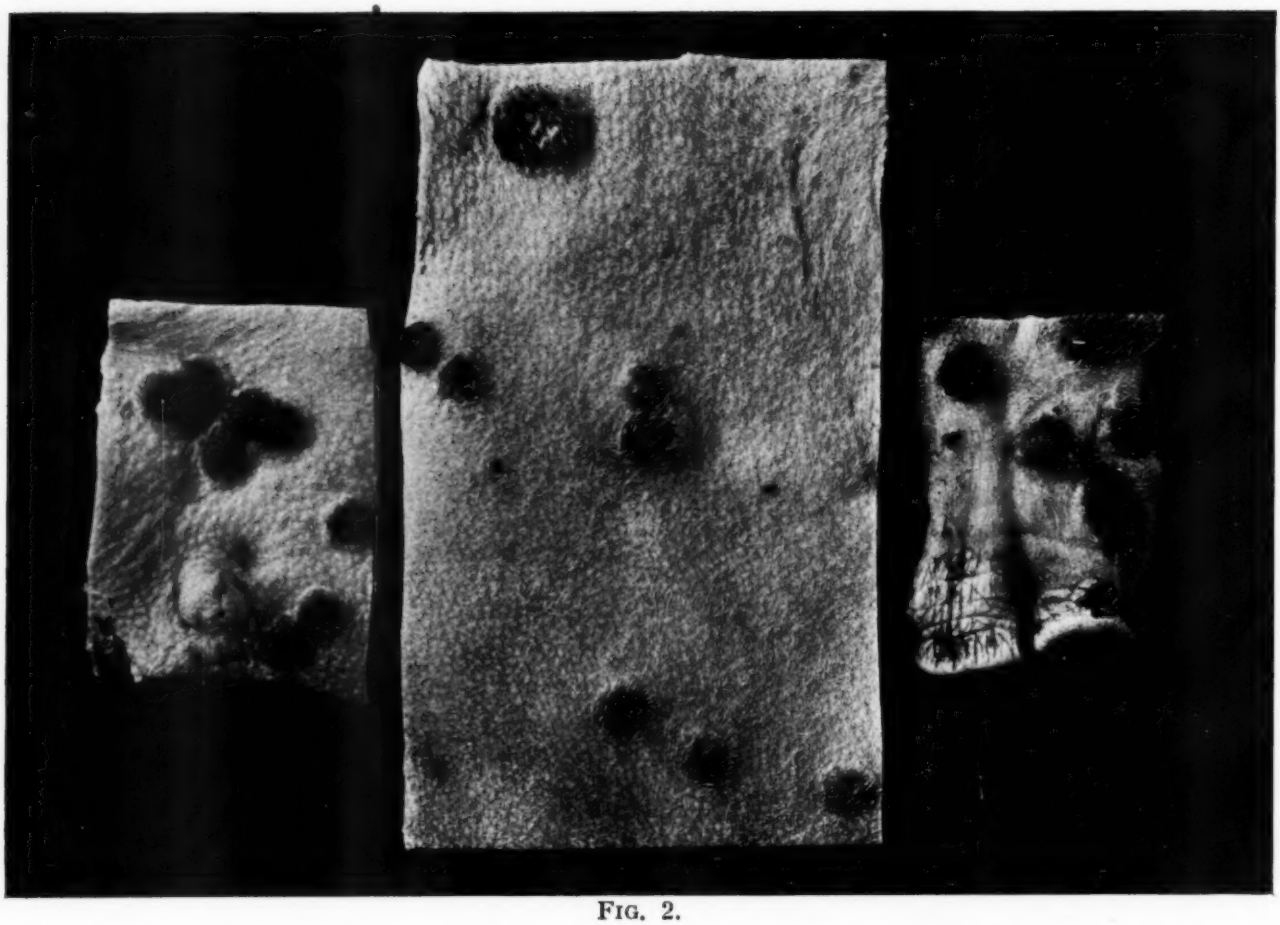

Fig. 2.

It was proposed to test the immunity of these animals at a subsequent date, but the tissues which had been stored for this purpose, including desiccated scabs from the skin lesions, proved to be quite inert and it was not possible to obtain a further supply of fresh material. Pigs 2 and 3, together with a normal control, were tested on the thigh, however, with a suspension of fresh vaccine lymph from a rabbit. The three animals showed typical vaccinal eruptions which were similar in duration and intensity in each animal.

A number of laboratory animals (rabbits, guinea-pigs and pigeons) were inoculated with the original material and with blood and organs from Pig 1, but without result.

Discussion

These brief notes have been written with the object of drawing attention to the type of swine pox which is apparently in existence in this country at the present time. We are not in a position to indicate the exact nature of the disease, but from information received from various sources it would seem to be fairly widespread. It is evident that it is generally confined to young stock, evokes a mild and superficial "pox-like" eruption, is capable of inducing a febrile reaction, but is not usually responsible for severe losses. Owing to a lack of adequate numbers of experimental pigs, we have not been able to undertake other than a preliminary experiment on the infectivity of the disease, but it is hoped that further opportunities for investigation will be afforded.

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McNutt, S. H., Murray, C., and Purwin, P. (1929.) *J. Amer. vet. med. Assoc.* **74.** 752.

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SHEEP SCAB POSITION IMPROVED

That the position regarding sheep scab had improved very materially was shown in the report of the Livestock Committee which was before a meeting of the Council of the National Farmers' Union held in London. It was stated that the position had so improved that before long the Ministry of Agriculture hoped it would be possible for the whole country to be made free with no restrictions on transit from one county to another, any necessary measures for the controlling of local outbreaks being left entirely to the Ministry.

ABSTRACTS

[A Case of Hypoderma in the Horse. Does the Hypoderma of Cattle Reach Maturity in the Horse? (Trans. title.) Carpentier, G., and Pelletier, L. (1936.) *Rec. Méd. vét.* **112.** 12. 705-711.]

A living larva of *Hypoderma bovis* was extracted from a small nodule on the side of the withers of a five-years-old mare. Some days afterwards, fragments of another larva, or the skin belonging to the previous stage in the development of the same larva, was observed in the tissue débris squeezed out of the nodule. Unfortunately this skin was destroyed before it could be examined microscopically, but the larva which was secured intact was examined and found to be in the second stage of development. A description of the larva is given, illustrated by two figures, and the authors discuss the observations and opinions of others and finally conclude that there is no authentic record of *H. bovis* ever having completed its larval development in the horse.

E. L. T.

* * * * *

[Muscle Lesions of Bovines. The Granuloma of Roeckl. (Trans. title.) Verge, J., Tachon, L., and Drieux, H. *Rec. Méd. vét.* **113.** 3. 129-143.]

These relatively rare greyish-white subcutaneous nodules on the surface of the muscle, usually in the dorsal region, of cattle may appear in animals of any age and are compatible with a state of good health. The brief review of the literature which is given, however, shows a co-existence of intramuscular tubercles in 20 per cent. of cases and of parenchymatous changes, suggestive of tuberculosis, in 16 per cent. The aetiology of these nodules still remains obscure and the suggestion that they may be tuberculous is yet without proof. Other theories are that they might be caused by sarcosporidia, by blastomyces, by streptococci or by *Corynebacterium pyogenes bovis*; there is, however, no evidence of a neoplastic origin.

E. L. T.

* * * * *

[A Comparison of the Microscopic Test, Hotis Test and Blood Agar Plate in Detecting Streptococci of Mastitis in Milk. Bryan, C. S., and Devereux, E. D. (1937.) *Cornell Vet.* **27.** 1. 68-74.]

Udder samples or quarter samples of milk were collected from 310 cows with all necessary hygienic precautions and were cultured in blood agar and subjected to microscopical test and the Hotis test. The authors took the microscopical test as the standard of mastitis and found that 89 per cent. of the microscopically positive samples were positive on culture and 60 to 70 per cent. were positive to the Hotis test. The Hotis test consists of adding bromcresol-purple to milk and watching the colour change after incubation, a yellow colour without flake formation being considered indicative of mastitis. [More instructive data would have emerged had the authors taken cultural examination as their most reliable index of mastitis.]

E. J. P.

* * * * *

[Clinical Results in the Treatment of So-called Functional Sterility in Cows. Clarke, C. F. (1937.) *J. Amer. Vet. Med. Ass.* **90.** 4. 488-492.]

In a series of 442 cases of sterility in cows and heifers, 73 cases were encountered in which the cause could not be ascribed to any visible or palpable abnormality of the reproductive organs. In the treatment of such cases three methods were adopted, *viz.*:—

(1) Vaginal and uterine douches with warm normal saline during oestrus and shortly before service.

(2) Ovarian massage. This method was adopted where the ovaries appeared inactive. One to four treatments were necessary before oestrus was induced.

(3) Treatment with an ovarian extract (presumably oestrin). This was resorted to after the first two methods had failed, in order to intensify the phenomena associated with oestrus.

Although the number of cases treated was comparatively small, the author concludes that douching and massage appear to have some value in the treatment of functional sterility. The numbers treated with ovarian extract are too few to permit of any conclusions being drawn.

N. J. S.

* * * * *

[Sexual Hormono-therapy in the Domestic Carnivores. (Trans. title.) Lesbouyries and Berthelon. (1937.) *Bull. Acad. vét. France.* **10.** 2. 126-132.]

Little work has as yet been done in the bitch and cat on the therapeutic application of the hormones regulating sexual function. The authors investigated the possibility of utilising oestrin and gonadotropic hormone in physiological and pathological derangements of the reproductive apparatus in these species, and as a result of their experience they now employ these substances regularly in place of other methods of treatment. In order to intensify the heat in bitches in cases where it is subnormal they recommend two or three daily doses of 2,000 mice-units of oestrin at the start of oestrus. Good results are claimed in the use of gonadotropic hormone for inducing artificial heat in bitches. A minimum dose of 100 m.u.

(*Concluded at foot of Page* 754, *Col.* 1.)

N.V.M.A. DIVISIONAL REPORT

Mid-West Veterinary Association*

MEETING AT BATH

A General Meeting of the Mid-West Division of the N.V.M.A. was held at the Red House, Bath, on Friday, April 16th, 1937.

The President (Mr. S. V. Golledge) occupied the chair and there were also present: Messrs. C. S. Adams, W. A. Austin, M. Baird, A. J. Baxter, E. C. Bovett, Esmond Brown, A. E. Gachet, C. R. Golledge, L. St. Bel Golledge, F. B. Hardy, Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Henson (Hon. Treasurer), Captain J. Hewer, Messrs. T. J. Margarson, R. Moore, C. E. Perry (Hon. Secretary), C. J. Pugh, W. D. Rees, Dr. Wm. Scott, Messrs. W. Tweed, W. R. Watson, W. Webster, H. C. Wilkins and M. E. Williams, together with the following visitors: Messrs. D. V. Balls, D. B. Davies, K. N. Green, J. D. K. Hewer, J. Richardson, C. E. S. Scott, L. J. Wakley and J. Hector Wilkins.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

Correspondence.—(1) From Sir F. Hobday, Captain J. Howard-Jones, Messrs. E. Seldon and J. C. Coleman, apologising for their inability to attend the meeting.

(2) From Dr. Jordan, in reference to the "At Home" to be given by the local Societies at the forthcoming N.V.M.A. Congress at Bournemouth. The action of the Council was confirmed.

(3) From Major Seldon, of Tetbury, resigning membership. The resignation was accepted with regret.

Motion by Mr. T. J. Margarson.—"That the representatives of the Mid-West Division on the Council of the N.V.M.A. be elected annually at the April meeting, instead of as hitherto at the Annual Meeting in January." This was seconded by the Hon. Secretary and carried.

*Received for publication May 7th, 1937.

Election of Representatives for the N.V.M.A.—The following were elected to serve on the Council of the N.V.M.A. for the ensuing year (three representatives): (1) The Hon. Secretary; (2) S. V. Golledge, Esq. (President); (3) Captain J. R. Hewer (elected by ballot).

Summer Meeting.—After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Rees and seconded by Mr. C. R. Golledge that the summer meeting should be held at Bournemouth during the Congress week.

Some Recently-introduced Veterinary Therapeutic Agents.—The following members then opened discussions on these agents: C. R. Golledge, Esq.—"Entozon": discussion by Messrs. C. E. Perry, Margarson, Hewer and S. V. Golledge.

T. J. Margarson, Esq.—"Wheat Germ Oil": discussion by Messrs. Hewer, C. R. Golledge, S. V. Golledge, A. J. Baxter, W. A. Austin and Dr. Scott.

A. J. Baxter, Esq.—"Davenil": discussion by Messrs. Hewer and C. R. Golledge.

Dr. W. M. Scott.—"Colchicine": discussion by Messrs. Hewer, C. R. Golledge and A. S. Adams.

The President proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded these members for opening the discussions and bringing forward such interesting subjects. This was put to the meeting and carried with acclamation.

C. E. Perry, *Hon. Secretary.*

induces heat in about four days and the bitch will allow service on the sixth to twelfth day. Similar results were obtained in the cat with doses of 50 to 100 m.u.

In the treatment of chronic endometritis, the authors have given up local treatment and hysterectomy, and now use only gonadotropic hormone. In treating 21 bitches and 18 cats they found that a single dose of 50 to 100 m.u. in most cases resulted in complete cure, whilst only in three of these cases was a second injection at the end of a month necessary.

N. J. S.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CLYDESDALE BREEDING

"The recently-announced grant of £500 by the Racecourse Betting Control Board to the Clydesdale Horse Society for the encouragement of Clydesdale breeding in the outlying districts opens up the prospect of considerable helpfulness where help is most required," says the *North British Agriculturist,* and adds: "In this connection, Scotland has been the victim of obviously unfair treatment at the hands of the Government for the past five years. While Government grants have continued to operate on behalf of Shire horse-breeding in England, similar assistance towards Clydesdale breeding in Scotland was withdrawn, and restoration refused on the plea that Scotland participated in certain other grants which did not operate in England. As the result of the help now forthcoming, the Clydesdale Horse Society are inviting applications from local horse-breeding societies in outlying districts for a share of the money at the Society's disposal. The grants will not exceed £20 for each society, and naturally very strict rules are laid down as to how these grants are to be used. For example, the breeding must be from pedigree mares only, but that is all in the interests of real stock improvement. The Clydesdale Horse Society have the duty of selecting the societies to whom grants are to be given."

In Parliament

The following questions and answers have been recorded in the House of Commons recently:—

Milk Marketing Scheme

Mr. James Hall asked the Minister of Agriculture whether the committee presided over by Mr. N. L. C. MacCaskie, K.C., has issued a report; and, if so, when the report is likely to be available to milk-producing retailers?

Mr. Price asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he has considered the amendments put forward by the Milk Marketing Board for the modification of the Milk Marketing Scheme; and what action he proposes to take in regard to them?

Mr. W. S. Morrison: The report of the Commissioner who held the public inquiry into the objections made to the draft amendments of the Milk Marketing Scheme is now under consideration, and I hope shortly to reach a decision in the matter. Following the usual practice, the report will not be published.

Mr. T. Williams: May I ask why the report will not be published?

Mr. Morrison: The purpose of such a commission is to sum up impartially all the evidence that is presented to it, and I think it has been generally recognised that if the report were to be published it might hamper the Commissioner in the execution of his duties.

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Metropolitan Police (Horses)

Mr. Thorne asked the Home Secretary whether he can give the House any information about the sale of horses on the hire-purchase system by Scotland Yard authorities?

Sir S. Hoare: I assume that the hon. Member refers to the boarding-out of horses in order to provide a reserve of trained horses for the mounted branch of the Metropolitan Police. Under this system (which was adopted last year as an experiment) horses are lent to approved borrowers, who pay an annual fee, maintain the horses, insure them, and produce them whenever the Commissioner requires them for special occasions or for periodical courses of training. A borrower who has had a horse for six years will be entitled to keep it on making a further small payment.

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Livestock (Diseases)

Mr. Henderson Stewart asked the Minister of Agriculture whether any provision is being made in his long-term policy for the eradication of disease in livestock, for reducing the mortality caused by grass sickness in horses, disease in poultry, and swine fever among pigs?

Mr. Ramsbotham: The Government's policy for the eradication of disease in livestock, which my right hon. Friend announced, will extend, as circumstances permit, to all classes of farm animals, including poultry, although efforts will mainly be directed in the first instance to the eradication of disease among cattle. It is impracticable, in the present state of knowledge, to recommend immediate measures for reducing the mortality caused by grass sickness in horses. As regards poultry diseases, my right hon. Friend is considering what steps can usefully be taken pending the report of the Technical Committee, which is examining methods of distribution of breeding-stock, hatching-eggs and day-old chicks, with particular reference to mortality. The policy now in force for the control of swine fever will continue. Research in all these matters is being actively pursued under the auspices of the Agricultural Research Council in collaboration with the Agricultural Departments.

Mr. Stewart: While thanking the hon. Gentleman for his answer, may I ask him whether he is aware, with regard to grass sickness in horses, that it is the general view, both of persons engaged in research and of farmers in Scotland, that it is lack of adequate funds which is largely responsible for the inadequacy of research at the present time?

Mr. Ramsbotham: I thank my hon. Friend for the information.

Notes and News

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

June 14th.—D.V.S.M. Oral and Practical Examination begins.

June 14th.—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., at 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1, 4 p.m.

June 15th.—Meeting of the Derbyshire Veterinary Association; Division, N.V.M.A., at Tutbury.

June 17th.—Meeting of the Western Counties V.M.A.; Division, N.V.M.A., at Bodmin, 2 p.m.

June 18th.—Meeting of the North of England V.M.A.; Division, N.V.M.A., at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5 p.m. Dinner, 7.15 p.m.

June 23rd.—R.C.V.S. Committee Meetings.

June 24th.—R.C.V.S. Committee Meetings.

June 25th.—R.C.V.S. Committee and Council Meetings.

July 5th.—R.C.V.S. Written Examinations.

July 6th.—R.C.V.S. Written Examinations.

July 8th.—R.C.V.S. Oral Examination begins.

July 26th-30th.—N.V.M.A. Congress at Bournemouth.

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CENTRALISATION OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Minister's Plea for Co-operation from Local Authorities

Addressing the Council of Agriculture for England, on June 4th, Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of Agriculture, said that the proposals in regard to agricultural policy recently put forward by him in the House of Commons were intended to restore and improve the fertility of the soil and the health and well-being of the stock reared upon it. Those two proposals, though difficult of attainment, were profoundly important for the whole future of agriculture in this country.

He hoped farmers would take the fullest advantage of the Government's substantial inducements in regard to lime and slag, both of which could be provided from home supplies. If the grasslands were efficiently managed they could play a much larger part in sustaining our livestock, and not only could the grazing season be extended, but, if their hopes of drying grass

proved reasonably profitable, there would also be a potential source at home of feeding-stuffs for cattle in winter and summer, which the Ministry was determined to encourage.

Mentioning that £14,000,000 a year was perhaps a conservative estimate of the loss due to animal diseases, Mr. Morrison said that if this could be cut down by half a boon would be conferred on agriculture of which it would be impossible to imagine the consequences. The only important change in the measures to deal with the diseases was the centralisation of the veterinary services to ensure uniformity of treatment. It was disheartening to a man on one side of a county boundary to find that after he had taken all necessary steps to prevent disease among his herds his neighbour on the other side of the boundary was not compelled to conform to the same restrictions, with the result that the first man might find his animals infected or reinfected from those of his neighbour. The attack had to be made on a wide front, and he hoped there would be the utmost co-operation from the local authorities in this matter.

To be Adopted in Ulster

The measures proposed by Mr. Morrison for Great Britain will be adopted in Northern Ireland once they have received legislative sanction. A statement on the subject is to be made shortly by Sir Basil Brooke, the Minister of Agriculture for the Province.

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LUNCHEON TO SIR JOHN KELLAND

A luncheon is being arranged to celebrate the honour conferred by His Majesty on Sir John Kelland and Sir Arthur Olver. It will take place at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on Thursday, June 24th, at 1 p.m., when it is hoped that as many members of the profession as possible will attend.

Sir John Kelland has promised to be present, but unfortunately Sir Arthur Olver will be unable to attend, being by that time on his way to India.

Applications, accompanied by a remittance of 6s. 6d., to be made to Dr. F. Bullock, Secretary of the Luncheon Committee, 10, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, not later than Tuesday, June 22nd.

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PERSONAL

The Diploma of Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine

At the General Meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine held on Tuesday, May 25th, Sir Frederick Hobday, C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S., was, by unanimous vote of the Fellows present, awarded the Diploma of Honorary Fellowship of the Society.

Other recipients of the Diploma of Honorary Fellowship were: *British.*—Sir Robert Muir, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.V.S., Mr. H. S. Pendlebury, F.R.C.S., and Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., F.R.C.S, *Foreign.*—Professor E. Achaud, Paris, Professor Hartmann. Paris, Professor A. A. H. Van der Berg, Utrecht, and Professor Carl van Noorden, Vienna.

The Diploma of Honorary Fellowship is the highest honour that the Royal Society of Medicine has power to confer.

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R.C.V.S. OBITUARY

Logan, Andrew P., Ballyclare, Co. Antrim. Graduated Glasgow, May 25th, 1901. Died May 29th, 1937; aged 73 years.

LEGAL NOTES

Charge of Over-stocking Heifer.—At Jedburgh Sheriff Court, William Rodger, farmer, of Melrose, was found not guilty of a charge that on March 22nd last, within a byre at Messrs. Davidson's auction mart, in the town of St. Boswells, he cruelly ill-treated a roan heifer belonging to him by causing or permitting it to have an over-stocked udder, whereby it was caused unnecessary suffering, under contravention of the Animals Act.

Accused, who denied the charge, was defended by Mr. J. Cameron Conn, W.S., Hawick. Expert evidence for the prosecution, which was conducted by Mr. M. O. R. Brown, Procurator-Fiscal, was given by Mr. R. H. Connachie, veterinary surgeon, St. Boswells, and his assistant; and for the defence by Professor Boddie, Royal "Dick" Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

The case for the defence was that the heifer was suffering not from over-stocking of the udder, but from oedema, which was a natural condition after calving. Mr. Connachie, in his evidence, said there was no doubt that the heifer was suffering from over-stocking. The udder was hard, the teats dripping, and the animal restive and sweating, and her expression was anxious.

Professor Boddie, who did not see the heifer, stated in evidence that he himself would not have given an opinion whether the cow was suffering from over-stocking or oedema, without milking her out.

Sheriff Baillie, in giving his decision, said this was a very difficult case. On the one hand, they had the evidence of the veterinary surgeon and his assistant who examined the heifer, and came to the conclusion that the animal was over-stocked with milk. There had been some secretion of milk, but this might have been caused either by over-stocking or by intending buyers experimenting with the teats. Against that they had the evidence of Professor Boddie, who stated that on the question of whether there was over-stocking of the udder or oedema, one could tell that only by milking; secondly, that if it was an over-stocked udder, it would be hard after milking. Professor Boddie had also stated that if there had been only three quarts of milk taken when the heifer was milked, as had been brought out in evidence, it could not have been suffering from an over-stocked udder. Therefore, added his Lordship, he had come to the conclusion that there was no over-stocking of the udder, and he found accused not guilty.

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Mrs. Rees-Mogg's Successes at the "Bath and West."—Readers will be interested to learn that the notable series of successes gained over a considerable period by Mrs. Rees-Mogg, wife of Veterinary-Colonel Graham Rees-Mogg, in the cattle classes at important shows, was continued at the famous West Country show, the "Bath and West," recently held at Trowbridge, Wilts.

At this show there was a representative display of British Friesians, the cow or heifer-in-milk class being outstanding and the first card going to Mrs. Graham Rees-Mogg, Stratford-on-Avon, with her five-year-old Clifford Chambers Ione, which also secured the female championship of the show. Yearling heifers were strong and here Mrs. Rees-Mogg was again successful with Clifford Chambers Maisie, while she also won first place in the young bull class.